

AUGUST~1900

PRICE 5 CENTS

VOLXII NO.10 MN 142

COMFORT

THE KEY TO A MILLION AND A QUARTER HOMES

NEW YORK

AUGUSTA, MAINE.

BOSTON

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The following conditions govern the awarding of cash prizes for Nutshell Stories, and the manuscripts of such writers only as have complied with all these requirements will receive consideration.

All the necessary particulars being here clearly set forth, it will be useless for anyone to seek further information or personal favors by addressing the editor, as such letters cannot be answered.

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2. All contributions must have the number of words they contain plainly noted thereon in addition to the writer's full name and address with nom de plume if desired; must be written on one side of the paper only, enclosed in the same envelope as the letter and remittance for new subscriptions, and addressed to EDITOR NUTSHELL STORY CLUB care of COMFORT, AUGUSTA, MAINE.

3. All stories must be strictly original with the contributors, and must not have appeared in print before. Competitors may write upon any subject, whether based upon fact, fancy or fiction—of adventure, love, war, peace; or city or country life, or of experiences on land or sea—but no story must contain more than 2,000 or less than 1,000 words.

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6. Writers who hear nothing of their manuscript may at the end of 90 days after submitting them to "Comfort" feel at liberty to offer their stories for sale elsewhere.

PRIZE WINNERS FOR AUGUST.

Charles Edward Barnes, First Prize.
Howard Marcus Strong, Second Prize.
Marget Kayne, Third Prize.
Mabel Breverton, Fourth Prize.
F. E. Burnham, Fifth Prize.

THE MAN OF DOOM.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY CHARLES EDWARD BARNES.

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HE great practitioner delivered the death-sentence with more firmness than brutality, but he meant it; and after all, men on the verge of eternity are best informed of their nearness to the grave. He said:

"Go home, draw up your will and make your peace with God. You haven't two days to live!"

The man of doom took it very calmly, turning away with a resigned gesture, and readjusting his clothes.

"I knew that it was pretty bad, doctor," he murmured humbly, "but I didn't think I was so close to death as that." Then with his waxen face uplifted appealingly, "Are you sure, doctor, quite sure?"

"You need not take my word—go ask any reputable physician what chances of life there are for a man with a broken neck. Nothing on earth can save you. The slightest jar or shock will bring about paralysis, coma and death. It may come in a minute, in an hour or in a day; but come it is bound to, and then off you go, painlessly to be sure, but certain as truth. That's all. Good morning!"

But the wan face thrust itself up again, staying the brusque expert. "Just a moment, doctor. You spoke of my going home, drawing up a will and making my peace with God. That's all right for a man who has a home, who has something to bequeath, and who is not already reconciled to the decree of his Maker. As for me, I have no home; and aside from the pauper clothes I wear nothing to bequeath, and I am resigned. But, doctor," he gathered closer, laying a thin hand upon the sleekless broad-cloth of the practitioner's shoulder, "does my case interest you very much—you know what I mean—enough, let me say, to make my skeleton worth anything to science?" He saw the calm calculating glance beneath the shaggy brows and it encouraged him. "Because, if so, doctor, I will sit right down here now and make a will bequeathing it to you—for some slight consideration which will make my last hours easier."

The scientist resumed his seat. "Something I never did before," he mused, "but as your case is of great interest to the medical fraternity, and the museum of the college where I lecture would be enriched by such a gift, I suppose there is policy in your proposition." He began writing on the broad pad. "The consideration?" he drawled. "Well, how will fifty dollars do?"

"It is a good deal for a man who has but a day or two to live," moved the other.

"Well, your case is worth it to the college, so here is your check. Sign the document here, please. Get the money, find a comfortable spot

and take things as cheerfully as you can. Be sure to send me your address. That's all. Very busy this morning. Good by!" He clasped the thin white hand as if he knew it was for the last time on earth, then hurried out, leaving the doomed man with the check to 'Bearer' fluttering in his trembling hand. After all there was solace in the thought that for the remaining two days of his life he could spend twenty-five dollars a day with reckless impunity, clear of conscience and contented of mind. Slowly, lest the jar or shock come too soon, the man with a broken neck sauntered toward Fifth avenue.

Passing the Waldorf-Astoria, the wanderer was seized with a desire to taste a little of the luxury which had been all life long denied him. He moved on into the magnificent hostelry, impelled by an unseen power, seating himself before the crested stationery in the writing-room, where he wrote simply, "Dear Doctor. This is my address. You will find me here when—" he paused, then added with a perceptible shiver, "you know!" and signed his name. Then he cashed his check at the bank in the hotel, and sat down to the most lavish dinner of his life.

What luxuries! What wines! What a palace for the delight of the *gourmet* by nature, pauper in purse! With the passing of every course a new glory descended upon him—a new desire to live. Resignation to an untoward fate gave way to a keen passion to cling to the moments preciously to the last. He assumed the imperturbable calm of a general in the midst of battle, for well he knew that the slightest shock or start meant his death. And after all, was it not a worthy place to die, with a morsel of grouse on his fork and a delicious draft of the sparkling wine of sunny France upon his smiling lips? He gazed out upon the broad avenue and saw Life—Life as they live it who contemplate the world over white damask and through plate glass, Life written in great golden capitals—and he longed to live.

After the repast the dreamer sauntered into the Moorish room and set down to Arabian coffee and flat Turkish cigarettes of exquisite flavor; and through the smoke-rings, emblems of eternity and of the nothingness of worlds, he grew philosophic. Doomed as he was, he made up his mind to die gloriously, with a half-column article in the morning papers and a scientific disquisition in the medical reviews by the great specialist. Fame at a bound, glory in martyrdom to a fall off the roof during sleep! The waiter took the handsome tip, thinking it strangely inadequate to the attire of the individual. "That's so," mused the man of doom, "I must not go to my death in these miserable toggeries. I'll go and see what I can do." He knew that credit with a tailor, with head and shoulders already within the tomb was out of the question, and his funds were running low with the sweetness of a few mortal hours' extravagance. On the way toward Broadway he saw a famous physician's name on a door-plate, and recklessly passed in for an interview.

The practitioner looked at him in astonishment after examination and said, "Why, man, I cannot understand why you are not dead. It is contrary to all known laws. You are surviving by miracle. The slightest shock will kill you. You have not a day to live." The doomed man assumed a resigned air, then suggested leaving his skeleton to the doctor for a consideration—say, a hundred dollars. The eminent practitioner was only too glad to get one of the most amazing cases on record, paid over the hundred and kept the will in evidence. The man of doom then went back to the first doctor, returned the fifty and left word that he had made another will, "revoking all others." Then he spent the remaining fifty dollars in rehabilitating himself from the skin out.

The sun rose on the doomed man's last morning, finding him still at the Waldorf surviving on the best. He calculated that his end would come about four o'clock of that day, and gauged his expenditures accordingly. When four o'clock came, it found him seated at one of the cafe's window-tables loaded with shimmering silver and cut glass. Five o'clock came, then six and still no harbinger of the end, so as he was utterly broke, he went out to find another great practitioner.

He found one in the person of the president of a great medical college, and the same affair of the will was repeated, save that this great medicus was so stupefied with surprise that it was not a dead man who spoke to him that his amazement cost him two hundred dollars, for which he received a last will and testament.

Honestly the doomed man returned to the former and left one hundred dollars in cash, with instructions to destroy the former will, as another making other disposition of his skeleton had been duly signed, sealed and delivered.

Then he resumed the Waldorf as a fitting Golgotha, studying the *blase*, imperturbable insouciance of the swell to the manner born, to whom nothing is new and no sensation untried. If the roof had fallen in or the floor opened it would not have stirred him the slightest and even his dinner check, which has given more than one millionaire sudden heart-failure at the Waldorf, only caused a smile of saintly benignity. Three days passed, the hundred dollars was gone, and then the doomed man went forth to hunt up another eminent physician.

But the physicians had now put their heads together, and instead of ostracising the man with the broken neck, competition became keen. He had no more than made a will for four hundred dollars, revoking all others, and repaying the former two hundred, than his mail became crowded with inducements to make new wills at an advance figure, and some from cities afar. The matter got into the newspapers and the doomed man was spotted at the Waldorf as a distinctly new sensation, with a score or two ever pressing upon him "to be in at the death", some even offering to assist the demise by various surprises calculated to shock. But the man with the iron nerve simply enjoyed life day after day and week after week, living at the rate of fifty thousand dollars a year merely for the slight inconvenience of making a new last will and testament on an average of three times a week. Then he met a lanky, sombre individual with diamonds on his underclothing—a western mining millionaire who was the most miserable man on earth. The latter stared hard at the doomed man one evening in the cafe, then came forward, excusing himself by affirming that the man with the broken neck was the image of the miner's brother, who, alas, after some catechising over a cold bottle at the doomed man's expense, was discovered to be a sojourner in a Montana jail awaiting hanging, although innocent of any crime.

"If he has money," drawled the man of doom, "what's the matter of a substitute?"

"They do those things in China, I believe, but not here, unfortunately for my brother and me. I think I could pay about a million dollars to do that trick."

"I'll do it for half the sum," said the doomed man quietly. "You see, the doctors say I'm a goner anyway, so what's the difference? With half the money I'll marry some sweet, deserving little woman, leaving her comfortable for life. With the other half I'll order built a granite mausoleum so solid that all the doctors in Christendom cannot break in and get at me, inscribing over the door, 'Here lies the Eternal Mystery. Cursed be he who moves my bones!'" It's all as easy as falling off a roof in sleep and breaking your neck as I did. You say that I am the counterpart of your brother now in the shadow of the gallows. With diplomacy and little hush money the substitute can be easily made and your innocent brother saved. There now!"

"Come to my room," whispered the millionaire guardedly, leading the way.

No sooner had the pair passed the threshold of the magnificent apartment than a beautiful young girl rushed forward, crying, "Oh, Uncle George! Is it really you?" And throwing her arms about the newcomer's neck, she kissed him passionately.

"One moment, my fair young friend," interposed the man of doom. "That you mistake me for your Uncle George confirms the rumor of our likeness, but I'm not your Uncle George and one more shock like this and I am a deader. Now let's get down to business!"

In the presence of the daughter, who did the writing in the case, the whole matter was arranged, the contract for the grand mausoleum was signed and then came the article concerning the legacy. "I don't know that I have any relatives on earth of whom I think enough to leave a quarter of a million dollars. But here!"

The man of doom glanced across to the gentle daughter who had given him the deepest heart-stir he had ever suffered in his life. "Even if I survive to go to the gallows, I have but ten days to live. I want to get all the joy I can out of life while it lasts. I have now for some days enjoyed everything that a man has a right to enjoy, except the love of a sweet, good woman. If your daughter, sir, will marry me and allow me to make her as happy as a doting husband may for the remainder of my life, I'll leave her the quarter of a million and an honest name."

"Oh," interposed the blushing one in great agitation, "I'm already engaged—to a young bank clerk back home. We're to be married in September."

"In no wise will my project interfere with yours, my dear young lady. On the contrary, think what a neat little sum for a wedding-trip around the world for you and your young man! Oh, it is very little to ask. I will be very good to you. I am a doomed man. I will save your father's only brother. Is it too much to ask?" he pleaded.

"Come back to-morrow," she faltered after a few moments. "I will think over it."

"Heaven bless you, my young friend!" invoked the doomed man, pressing his lips fervently to the trembling fingers. Then he went away.

The next day at high noon the pair were married, and that afternoon started on the strangest wedding trip on earth.

A month later a pale, cadaverous-looking stranger sauntered into the Waldorf cafe and sat down opposite the millionaire from Montana. "Well," he said calmly, "here I am, you see." The western miner gave a gasp and turned purple, speechless. "You observed," continued the quiet man, "they can't kill me. I was pronounced dead all right, and was so to all intents and purposes of the law. But the next day I came to and was set free on the promise of fifty thousand cash. You see, my

neck having been broken once, refused to break again and I was merely made unconscious. By the by, sir, where is my wife?"

"She is here," said the millionaire in sepulchral tones, trembling violently.

"And her uncle, your distinguished brother?" "I sent him to Australia for a few years." He puffed at his perfecto nervously. "What do you propose to do with your mausoleum which is now building?"

"Cancel the contract, or, failing in that, remove it to Broadway and open a *Cafe de la Mort* on the Parisian plan. Great idea, eh?"

The millionaire drew a deep breath. "Say, you beat the Devil himself, you do," he drawled. "Do you think you will ever die? Can nothing kill you?" It was said as if the speaker now had a supreme wish for the other man's demise.

"I doubt it, unless it be unrequited love, sir, seeing that neither the medical fraternity nor the law can kill me. But here: where is my wife? I want to see my wife—" He leaned forward and gazed into the face that had assumed a deathly aspect again. "Why, what has happened?" he pursued, half rising as if he apprehended a catastrophe. "Quick! Tell me. Is she not here with you?" The millionaire had collapsed in the great arm chair. The man of doom arose, then the swish of silken skirts and the familiar odor of orris assailed him. He turned, beholding the darling of his heart standing like stone at his right, gazing upon him as on Death himself in the flesh. The man rushed forward; but, recoiling with a strange cry the bride forbade him with a look of supremest tragedy.

That moment of terrible silence was broken by the coming of a tall, fine-featured young man who stopped short, then clenched his hands and advanced to the man of doom. "Sir," he demanded, "who are you? What does this mean? What do you want of my wife?"

The man of doom grew rigid. "Your—your what?" he moaned, scarce audibly.

"My wife, sir! Do you understand—my wife!"

The listener turned to the scarlet statue at his right. "Dear one," he groaned, "is this true, is this true?" Then catching her faint nod, added, "Since when?"

"Since the very hour—that the doctors—pronounced—my uncle—dead!"

With that a mighty transformation took place in the shrunken attitude before them. It was like the snuffing of a candle, for the light of a life went out, the face turned a leaden hue, the head fell back with a creaking sound and the wasted form melted in a heap on the floor like a wax image in the midday sun.

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THE YELLOW RUN TIE-UP.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY HOWARD MARCUS STRONG.

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ZENOS Quintin affixed his euphonious name to the lease and became my tenant for a period of twelve months. He asserted that he was a celebrated composer, but his name and compositions were alike unknown to me.

It was the composer's intention, so he stated, to live entirely alone. He had a daughter at school, and a son out west, but neither of them had an ear for music—a fact I no longer wondered at after listening to the sounds that issued at all hours from the little cottage across the field.

To Zenos Quintin, outside of music there was but one subject of interest—carrier pigeons. I remembered this fact the moment my gun recoiled; but it was too late; the bird lay at my feet. Hastily picking it up, I strode into the house, feeling thoroughly ashamed of my wanton slaughter.

A second examination of the bird revealed something of decided interest. To one of its tail-feathers was attached a section of quill, and within the quill was a tiny scrap of paper. The writing upon the paper was in such minute characters that a glass was necessary to enlarge it to reading size.

This is what I saw:

"Ttl hhi eeo shw weR aaur
gdn iwg sse btt uel rrt
isq eou dfl aYc tek ttt."

And it was a cryptogram that bade fair to frustrate all my attempts at solution. However, after the evening meal, I sat down to the puzzle, and at bedtime the secret writing was no longer a mystery. Taking the first letters of each of the words, then the second, and lastly, the third, I made out the following:

(1) "The swag is buried at
(2) the headwaters of Ye—
(3) llow Run. Get it quick. ttt."

What a sudden unfolding of dark possibilities this was. Could the message have been intended for my neighbor? Did this explain the occupation of his son? Was the musician himself simply a fence? What was the proper thing for me to do—inform the authorities, or do a little investigating on my own account? I determined upon the latter course.

The following afternoon I rode to Yellow Run, two miles distant, and dismounting, climbed up to the spring which gives rise to the little stream.

Just to the left of the basin, which had been hollowed out by the water, I discovered three tiny crosses, made of bark-stripped twigs and planted in a bed of leaves. There could be no mistaking the sign. The treasure was undoubtedly buried near that spot.

At that moment the flutter of something white among the trees caught my eye. As I quickly drew back, a young woman stepped out from the deep shadow and gazed about as if awed by the solitude. Then moving directly to the spot marked by the three crosses, she fell to digging up the leaves and soft loam with a small garden trowel. After a few moments' work, she struck something that gave forth a clear, metallic sound. With an exclamation of delight, she redoubled her efforts, and soon had a small iron chest exposed to view.

"Young woman!" I cried, starting out of the underbrush; "young woman, what are you doing here?"

With a frightened scream she sprang to her feet and turned upon me a pair of widely dilated blue eyes. Professionally—M. D. '96—I thought she was going to faint, and hastened to lend her some support; but wrenching herself away, she sank against a tree, and continued to regard me with a look of absolute horror.

"Who are you?" I demanded sternly.

Slowly her lips formed two inaudible words. Then with a quavering voice she said: "I'm Dorcas Quintin."

"A daughter of Zenos Quintin?" I persisted. She nodded her curly head and looked the picture of misery.

My suspicions were confirmed—a family of thieves.

"How long have you been at Glen Cottage?" I questioned.

"Two weeks," she answered. "I think I'd better go back now."

"This gives me great pain, my dear young woman," I said; "but it is my duty to inform the authorities of all that Providence has seen fit to make me the humble means of bringing to light. You—"

"Well, I guess you've chinned about long enough," growled a hoarse voice at my back.

I whirled about and confronted the muzzle of a pistol. At the same instant the young woman screamed for help; but I could not move my eyes from the deadly weapon.

"Now come over and tie this one up," said the man in front of me.

Instantly my wrists were seized and tied behind my back. I was then pushed against a tree, several yards of rope were wrapped around

me. When the job was completed, I could move neither hand nor foot.

There was the sound of digging for a time, some hard breathing and muttered curses, then the twigs snapped, and two men passed me, bearing between them a heavy iron express-box. Instantly I recalled the daring express robbery which had occurred on the railroad, several miles away, a few months previous.

A smothered sob reached my ears, and I struggled in vain to turn my head.

"Why, Miss Quintin," I cried, "have they strung you up, too?"

There was no answer, but continued sobbing. "For Heaven's sake, speak?" I called. "Are you injured?"

"Not—not much," came in a weak voice; "only the rope is cutting my wrist."

"This is damnable!" I fumed. "To think of their treating you in such a manner. Can you see me?"

"No, I can't see you—I don't want to see you—I hate you! I'll make father move to-morrow."

"O come now," I said; "the whole thing was such a mystery."

"Well, you needn't have taken me for a thief," came the angry retort from the other side of the spring.

"But how did you know of the treasure?" I asked.

"Of course you think we're all thieves," cried Miss Quintin, indignantly; "but a stray pigeon flew down in our yard, and I caught it. It had a note fastened to one of its feathers, and I wanted to see if it was true."

"Remarkable!" said I. "How did you make it out? I got one, two."

"A child could have read it," she answered sharply. "So it was intended for you!"

"No," I said with emphasis; "the whole thing was an unfortunate jumble."

As the shadows of night began to fall, the air grew cold, and our situation was almost unbearable. A little sob came from my fellow captive and my heart ached for her.

"Dear Miss Quintin," I ventured, "don't cry. Some one will find us. I wish that I could come to you."

"I don't want you to come near me," she said with chattering teeth. "I hate you—O how I hate you!"

She was rapidly approaching a hysterical condition, so I thought it best to subside. Suddenly I was startled by a trampling through the leaves.

"Is it a bear?" wailed Miss Quintin.

At that moment my dog jumped up against me, barking joyously. How I thought of the heroic dogs of fiction! Some had untied hard knots with their teeth, or summoned aid for their endangered masters. Alas, Waif was not of that thrilling breed. He had eaten my meat and shared my easy chair, but he didn't even offer to go home and raise the alarm.

"I think we'll die here," moaned Miss Quintin.

"Pshaw! Dorcas, be brave. You'll be laughing about it to-morrow." And I whistled to keep down the twinges of pain.

"No—I sha'n't be laughing—and don't you call me Dorcas." The voice floated over with increased energy.

That was my cue. Anything to keep her mind off her sufferings.

"Dorcas, dear," I began soothingly, "some day you will learn to appreciate me. I am young, unmarried, and my practice is—"

"Bah!" exclaimed the young lady in a tone of disgust.

The darkness was appalling. The wind surged through the dry leaves, and a feeling of utter despair settled down upon us.

"O, a light!" cried Miss Dorcas, suddenly. "I see a light coming; shout to them."

And how I shouted! Thomas said it was "fit to wake the dead." A moment later he severed our bonds, and we were free. It was sometime, however, before we could bear the pain of moving our stiffened joints.

"Go ahead with the light, Thomas," I said; and catching up the young woman, prepared to follow; but to this mode of procedure she objected strongly.

At last we found where my horse was tied, and I lifted Miss Quintin into the saddle.

"How did you know to come here, Thomas?" I inquired on the way home.

"A bit of paper on your desk, Sir," he replied. "The housekeeper found it, with something about the headwaters of Yellow Run. She got uneasy and sent me to look for you."

"It was my translation of the message that she found," I explained to Miss Quintin; but she failed to notice the remark.

Upon our arrival home, we found the housekeeper and the old musician in earnest consultation. He had become frightened at his daughter's long absence, and had started out in search of her.

Under the influence of one of Jannet's good suppers, we soon thawed out, and before good-night was said, Miss Quintin had forgiven me and we parted the best of friends. And that was but the first of the many pleasant evenings that I spent in the society of Zenos Quintin and his very charming daughter.

The mystery of the express robbery was never cleared up. We could only suppose that the real thief had released several birds, each bearing the same message to his pals. One of these pigeons I shot; another flew down

among the Quintins' birds, and the others evidently reached their proper destination.

Zenos Quintin is at present engaged upon the composition of a wedding march. Further than that I can say nothing; for Dorcas is entirely too modest to be married for publication.

Elena, and the Governor of Cebu.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY SARGENT KAYME.

Copyright, 1900, by W. H. Gannett, Publisher.

RAMON had heard the news down at the water front, where he had been helping to load hemp; and he had told Elena.

The *cachilas*, white men, the *Americanos*, had come to Manilla in a fleet of great gray ships. There had been a battle. The Spaniards had been beaten, and now the *Americanos* were to own the land.

Neither Ramon nor Elena knew where the *Americanos* lived, except that it was somewhere on the other side of the world, from

which, strange to say, they did not fall off. Some one had told Ramon once, that in that far off country the water turned to ice of its own accord, and men walked on it. That was another mysterious thing; and sometimes of a summer evening, as they floated across the bay of Cebu in Ramon's *banca*, they said how strange it would be if the blue water of the tropic sea around them was suddenly to grow hard, so they could leave the *banca* there and walk to where the plump tops of the palm trees were nodding on the shore.

It was not of this they talked, to-night, though, but of something much more wonderful still, which Ramon had heard. A man who sailed on the boat onto which Ramon had helped load the hemp had told him that in the country of the *Americanos* there were no slaves and that, if the *Americanos* were to own the islands—so people in Manila said—there would be no slaves in Cebu.

This was what meant so much to them. For Elena was a slave, although few of the free born women of Cebu—none of them, Ramon thought—were more winning to look upon than she.

Ramon was free, a native of the island of Bohol, from which he had come two years before to work in Cebu. Now that he had come to know Elena, and love her, he said he would never go back to his former home unless he could take her with him as his wife; but a laborer in Cebu, or in any of the islands for that matter, can earn oh, so little wages, even when there is work; and the price which the woman's master asked for her was high.

The bay where the *banca* floated that evening in the twilight was so beautiful. Who would have thought that one day could have made such a change as the next day did?

Elena crept out alone the next night and looked at the water. The bay was just as beautiful, the air as clear and the sky as blue, but to the girl who stood looking at it, everything was black. Everything would always be black after that day, she thought.

It had been a feast day in Cebu, the day when the holy image of Santo Fino de Cebu, which had fallen from Heaven hundreds of years before, so the people said, was to be carried through the streets that the people might see it and offer prayers and be blessed.

First there had come big floats, on which were richly dressed likenesses of the apostles. The floats were pushed along by coolies, hidden except for their bare feet by the draperies which had been hung about the platforms.

Then, after the apostles, came fifty little girls all dressed in white, drawing by a long white rope a little car trimmed and heaped with flowers, from out of which rose a pedestal on which the holy relic rested; a tiny image, with a sweet child's face.

Now Elena, when she had seen the flower decked car coming near to the place where she and Ramon were standing in the street, dropped on her knees, as the other women did, to pray; and because the strange news which the man in the hemp boat had told Ramon was still the chief thing in her mind, she said aloud, "Oh, blessed Heaven-child, send the *Americanos* here to make me free."

But when the procession was quite gone past a handsome *mestiza* woman who had been kneeling beside Elena, sprang to her feet and pointing to the girl still kneeling, cried to a man who stood behind her:

"The cat! She prayed to have the wicked *Americanos* come!" and struck Elena on the cheek.

Then the man who was with the woman, because Elena was only a slave, struck her also, and said an ugly word.

If Ramon had had a knife he would have killed the man, but having none he could only

strike him with his fists, again and again, until the man fell in the street, and the screams of the woman brought his friends.

Ramon was seized by the guards and beaten that day in the public flogging place, and after that was thrown into the prison beneath the tribunal. If he did not die from the beating he would likely be killed, or at least would never be free again. This was why the whole world, once so beautiful, looked black to Elena.

A week passed, and a month, and then two months. Ramon was still alive. Elena knew that because a woman who worked for the wife of the prison keeper had told her so, but no word came from him to her and she could send no message to him.

Then, one day, a strange thing happened. Three great gray ships came slowly and majestically into the harbor of Cebu, and rested.

Soon small boats were dropped from the big ships' sides, and in them men were brought to the shore, where they formed in line, and came marching up the street to the tribunal.

Elena knew then that the *Americanos* had come, and although the streets were nearly empty, now, because some of the people had hid, and shut their houses tight, she went out and stood in a place by which she knew the troops must pass.

First there came a company of brown clad men, marching steadily, and then more men dragging a queer little gun, which did not look half so terrible, she thought, as the cannon in the water front fort, which had grown rusty because they had been there a hundred years.

Then came, walking alone, a man who from his strong but kindly face, and from the dignity of his bearing, quite as much as from his uniform and the deference of the officers behind him, Elena knew must be the chief of the *Americanos*.

She had not meant to do any such thing. It was only after she had seen the general's face that the thought came to her, but then, before any one could have stopped her, she had flung herself in the street before him, and clasping her arms about his knees was crying out to him for Ramon to be freed. Herself she had no thought for then.

To a young officer who had sprung to his leader's side the general said, gently, "Take her away, and find out what is the matter. Let me know later."

That was why, not many days after that, Ramon and Elena saw each other again, in the tribunal for the first time for two long months, and heard the new governor who had come with the *Americanos* tell the interpreter to say to them, "You both are free. Go, and learn to be good citizens of the United States."

Then, to an officer who had said something to him in a low tone, the general said, "No matter. Offer her master a fair price for the woman, and tell him it is that or nothing. I may not be governor here for long, but while I am, by the Continental Congress I'll do all I can to root out slavery here."

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A WAX TRAGEDY.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY MABEL BREVERTON.

Copyright, 1900, by W. H. Gannett, Publisher.



HEN Allan Ames went to board at No. 60 Brown Avenue, he was much annoyed to find out that the keys of some of the rooms were alike. Remembering this, however, he was not so much surprised as he would otherwise have been, on returning home late one night to find his room already occupied. An old man was sound asleep in his bed. He looked so tired, and seemed to be resting so peacefully, that Allan let his wrath at the intrusion cool down, and being a good-natured fellow, prepared to pass the night on a very comfortable sofa which stood in the room.

In the morning the stranger appeared to be sleeping soundly, without having stirred from the spot in which he lay the night before. Allan thought this was rather queer, and so he shook the old man by the shoulder. The sleeper made no response. His face was shaded, and almost buried in the pillow, but a sudden impulse made Allan bend down and examine it. It was a wax figure. And this was what he had passed the night on the sofa for! He resolved to get even with the wax figure maker who sat at the table next him, for playing him such a joke.

That morning, when he came in to breakfast, all the boarders looked up at him inquiringly. They were evidently in the plot, too, but Allan looked wholly unconscious.

"How did you sleep, Mr. Ames?" inquired the main conspirator with a look of innocence from the chimney. Allan reached his arm up as far as he could and pulled something down. A human body tumbled onto the hearth.

"The very same!" exclaimed one of the detectives, "hair, nose, everything, even the—" Suddenly the man stopped short. Allan picked the body up and set it in a chair.

"My lost wax figure!" almost shouted Mr. Moulton in his excitement, as he rushed at the image, "but oh, how dented and marred! Where did it come from? Why, I left it in your bed, Mr. Ames, the night you were at your aunt's. It's a joke we always play on every newcomer here."

Before the detectives had time to speak Allan opened the door of a room adjoining and in walked old Mr. Grinnell, looking well and happy.

"I've been having a delightful visit down in the country, gentlemen," said he. "I hear there's been some little anxiety about me. Too bad! My young friend here has been having me pass the time at an aunt's of his, and for some reason of his own he coaxed me to go down there without telling anybody a word about it."

"I didn't like spending the night on the sofa," said Allan, "and I couldn't help noticing the strong family likeness between your artistic wax figure here, Mr. Moulton, and our friend Mr. Grinnell. It struck me that if he should mysteriously disappear, your image might play his part pretty well, in some situations at least."

The wax figure maker only groaned. Finally he managed to say feebly:

"I thought you'd only pull it out of your bed, go and have little fuss with the landlady about it. That's what most of 'em do."

"No," said Allan, "I let it have my berth for the night, it looked so tired and seemed to be sleeping so soundly."

The two detectives retired without having performed the errand upon which they had come. The Chief of Police gave Allan a sharp reprimand for causing them to waste their time in watching the premises of No. 60, but as long as no harm came of it, he afterwards had a good laugh with them over the matter.

When the landlady was shown the bottom of the mystery, however, she displayed but little sense of humor—so little, in fact, that now jokes of all kinds are unpopular in her house.

wish, and that was to conceal the whole affair. The landlady also was of course extremely anxious that people should not know her house had been searched, and a body found in it which afterwards disappeared, and so it happened that the tragedy of Mr. Moulton's chimney did not leak out. In order to keep an eye on the premises, however, two of the detectives came to board at No. 60, but no one suspected their purpose.

The whole matter would have quieted down had not the Chief of Police ordered more active efforts to clear up the mystery. The detectives began to be afraid that they would be discharged from the force unless they did something soon.

"I think we had better arrest that wax figure maker on suspicion," said one, "to be sure, there's not the slightest doubt of his being an honest man, but the body was found in his chimney, and he's the only one we can have the least excuse for suspecting."

"That's so," replied the other, "and since it's to be done, the sooner the better. Why not to-night, when he is in his room after dinner?"

"That would do. We could take him quietly then."

The two speakers did not notice Allan. He seemed to be buried in a newspaper at the farther end of the room, but his ears were remarkably keen.

That night Mr. Moulton was seated alone in his room, when a knock came at the door. He opened it, and saw Allan. Scarcely had the two been seated and chattering together for fifteen minutes before another knock came, and this time the two detectives entered. When they announced their errand the wax figure maker was utterly overcome.

"Before you arrest this gentleman on suspicion merely," interposed Allan, "why don't you make sure that you have good grounds?"

"Good grounds, young man! What better ground would you want than we have? You know how old Mr. Grinnell disappeared from this place without leaving a trace of his whereabouts, and how, when we found his body up the chimney here, it afterwards disappeared almost under our very eyes."

"That certainly is astonishing. Do you think you would know the body if you saw it again?"

"Couldn't mistake it. I saw the man's white hair, and noted the outline of the nose and chin distinctly."

"Would you be so good as to look up the fireplace once more," said Allan, "and show me just where it was. I cannot believe you saw it right."

One of the men did so, and drew back almost paralyzed with astonishment. Stepping up to the chimney Allan reached his arm up as far as he could and pulled something down. A human body tumbled onto the hearth.

"The very same!" exclaimed one of the detectives, "hair, nose, everything, even the—" Suddenly the man stopped short. Allan picked the body up and set it in a chair.

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THE SHADOW OF A ROMANCE.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY F. E. BURNHAM.

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THE little seamstress who plied her needle twelve hours a day and six days a week in the little room at the north end of a Broadway tenement house at the corner of Fourth Street, heard a slight sound at her window just as the night was deepening of a fall day. Peering out, she was startled to see a miniature box creeping along the gutter, pushed forward by a long stick. Within this box was a bit of paper, and on this paper was written, in an almost illegible hand:

"This has been a nice day."

The seamstress uttered a wee bit of a scream and banged the window. She was unused to masculine attentions and as the chirography

was unmistakably of that gender, she conducted herself differently than many another younger and less sedate damsels. She reasoned with herself, pronouncing her neighbor, who by the way she had never seen, a most audacious personage, yet with all his presumption, a very civil individual who had in no manner insulted her.

The following day, having much work to do, she gave the note of the previous evening only a passing thought now and then, and it was not until the evening was at hand that her thoughts seriously turned to the matter; possibly not then, had not she heard much the same sound at her window that aroused her before. Looking out she saw the same box in the gutter, the long stick with a hook at the end resting beside it. Just then the wind almost carried the accompanying note into the street below, and on the impulse of the moment the seamstress did an unheard of thing—reached far out of the window and rescued the greeting, retreating in confusion to her room.

"Good evening, Miss—

I'm a well meaning soul,

Don't be afraid of me."

Life was monotonous at best with the seamstress, plying her needle hour after hour, week in and week out, and in spite of herself she was glad of the break in the usual order of events, or rather non-events, and instead of closing the window, she hastily scribbled three words on a slip of paper, depositing it in the box, which still remained outside the window.

"I am not."

The message was brief, but it evidently pleased her neighbor, for she heard him chuckling a moment later when he had withdrawn the box. When the box arrived the following evening at the usual time, her heart was touched and a suspicion of a tear might have been seen lingering on her lashes.

"I am sorry you work so hard;

it isn't right. Good night."

No one had seemed to care in the past how hard or how long she worked, and the discovery of one who sympathized lightened her heart and won her confidence. Her reply was brief, but friendly, possibly something more.

"You are good to say so—

Better to think so.

Good night."

Thus the days passed, each day the brighter for the thought that when evening came a kindly word would be sure to come from the neighbor whom she had never seen and who persisted in keeping himself in seclusion. Somehow the sewing did not seem so irksome and life seemed more worth the living.

One evening the expected message failed to appear at the usual time and the little seamstress noiselessly opened the window and looked toward the window whence came the box. Suddenly she drew back with a shiver which was unaccountable, considering what she beheld—a well-shaped man's arm, stretched out in act of pushing the box along the gutter. That was the first that she had seen of her neighbor.

The seamstress was sewing one morning when a sudden and alarming thought occurred to her. Why did she find herself thinking so frequently of her neighbor who greeted her so pleasantly each evening? Did she love him? Was she beginning to care for this individual who professed to be interested in her welfare? Like a wave the color mounted to her brow, and the answer was a decisive—yes.

Thus far had her new found friend evaded all attempts at conversing or meeting with him. Being a woman, the seamstress chafed at his moderation in declaring himself; being a woman, she did not await his pleasure. An incident which occurred on a moonlit night hastened the solving of the mystery.

The seamstress was seated in her room one evening, too weary to retire after a peculiarly busy day. The hours slowly passed, and as midnight approached the full moon shed its rays more directly upon the window. Without, the winter wind shook shutters and sash, blowing the dry snow into little drifts, though it had fallen two days previous. Suddenly the seamstress shivered, drawing her wrap more closely about her. She knew not the reason for it, but the fact remains that she did so.

As the clock struck the hour of twelve her horrified eyes beheld a hand creeping past the casement of the window, without the pane; a hand deathly white and uncanny. A forearm followed; then a head and shoulders; and finally a misshapen body; a creature unlike any human being, crouching, creeping, cringing as the window rattled.

Petrified with fright, the seamstress sat motionless, her eyes staring from their sockets. Then the apparition paused, seemed to glance at the room, turned and slowly retreated, vanishing as silently as it had come.

The uncanny occurrence completely unstrung the seamstress and the following day she was unable to accomplish much work. She wanted to talk with some one of the apparition, but fearing ridicule, she kept the matter to herself. At twilight, however, the customary note having arrived from her neighbor, she wrote a more or less lengthy account of her experience

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of the previous night, asking what he thought of it all.

"Best leave such things alone."

Such was the brief reply received a few moments later. It was cold comfort and the seamstress was deeply grieved; not only grieved, but angry. Her response was a hearty banging of the window, more expressive than a ten-page protest.

The following evening the message failed to appear and the seamstress bitterly repented her hastiness; no word coming the second night, she shed not a few tears. A week passed, and still no word, all was as silent as the grave on the other side of the partition.

One morning the seamstress chanced to meet her landlord on the street, less than a block removed from the latter's residence. The suspense was growing unbearable, and she asked him who occupied the room adjacent to her own, the one on the south.

"Bless your soul, Miss," said he, dropping his voice, "nobody lives there, leastwise, nobody human; it's haunted; nobody has lived there for two years, since a young man up and killed himself one night. It—

"Why, confound it, what's the matter? What makes you so pale?"

The next instant the seamstress was a senseless heap of humanity in the landlord's strong arms, and he was bearing her homeward, and shortly he was mounting his own steps.

It was two months before the seamstress was able to leave the landlord's home where she had been near death's door from brain fever. The landlord's sister had successfully nursed her back to convalescence and the former had shown himself a close second, employing the best of physicians and purchasing the most costly delicacies.

"You have been very good to me, Mr. Poole," said the seamstress one morning when she was well on the road toward health, "I fear I can never repay you the half."

"Oh, yes, you can," said the bachelor, Mr. Poole, "never in long time, Miss Fairchild; I am willing to wait."

The seamstress blushed, smiled and said: "A patient waiter is no loser."

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choking sensation in throat; oppressed feeling in chest; cold hands and feet; painful to lie on left side; dropsy; swelling of the feet or



BY EVERETT G. WHEELMAN.

ONE of the newest vehicles is a sort of combination bicycle, tricycle and automobile, which is called a "gyroscope," an illustration of which is herewith shown.

The front wheel serves the double purpose of driver and steerer, and being subjected to greater strains than the two rear wheels, is constructed much more substantially. All levers for controlling the machine are conducted along the steering bar to within easy reach of the operator. The brake is worked by foot pressure, the tread being so set as to enable the operator to exert direct force, bringing the vehicle to a full stop in three times its length.

In the accompanying illustration, taken from the Cycle and Automobile Trade Journal, is shown a ten-horse-power "motor wheel" for heavy truck work. This device consists of a wooden wheel driven by a two-cylinder gasoline motor, suspended on one side of the wheel. The wheel is placed between the two sides of a heavy yoke or fork, on one side of them the motor is hung, the other side being devoted to the gasoline tanks. The steering is done by means of a hand wheel, shaft and gearing, and the controlling lever is conveniently placed. The application of this motor to any light or heavy vehicle is well within the ability of an average machinist, and consists simply in removing the front wheels and axle, and substituting the "motor wheel." The Company is now turning out these wheels in sizes varying from one to ten horse-power. That the automobile is already becoming a prominent factor in the economy of public transportation is evident.

The plan of a national highway from the Atlantic to the Pacific, so long the dream of cycling enthusiasts, has since the advent of the automobile, been receiving no little attention throughout the country. The Automobile Club of America has taken up the matter and at a meeting at the Waldorf-Astoria, in New York City, the trans-continental automobile road was formally launched. General Miles representing the War Department, and General Roy Stone, head of the Department of Road Inquiry, were present and expressed sympathy with the movement. Automobilists believe that the highway should be built independent of existing roads and the expense borne by the United States, aided by the states through which the road passes.

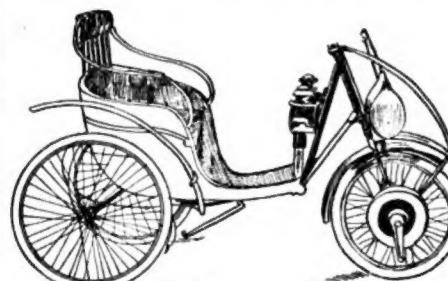
Akron, Ohio, is the proud possessor of the first automobile patrol wagon in this country. It is of electric type, being driven by two six-horse-power motors, capable of a maximum speed of twenty miles an hour. The battery is of forty cells and one charge will carry the vehicle twenty-five miles. The steering is accomplished by means of the wheel in front, a lock on the steering shaft enabling the vehicle to run straight without watching. An electric headlight and an electric alarm gong give warning of the approach of this modern accessory of the up-to-date municipal department, while a smaller light in the top of the wagon gives ample illumination for the interior. In order to prevent accidents on steep grades three systems of brakes are used. The complete vehicle weighs five thousand eight hundred pounds, and in actual service has been

those in use in connection with the bicycle, but larger, stronger and more powerful. Thus there are now on the market, tires, rims, pumps, lamps, bells, chain, bodies, enamel, and so on ad infinitum—all especially adapted for the fitting or furnishing of the automobile.

An automobile authority advises those who are contemplating buying horseless vehicles to put in a week or two managing a motor tricycle. "It is a splendid preparation for better things, and a week's actual experience on the road is infinitely better than a month's theoretical study."

As bicycles have already passed the experimental stage for military use, it appears probable that the next step will be motor-boats. These were given a trial at the last German manoeuvres and proved very successful. It is now reported that German firms are rapidly manufacturing army bicycles and motor-boats.

According to experts, the neglect of bearings is a prolific source of injury to bicycles. A loose bearing causes extra friction and extra strain. The machine runs badly and wears out much more quickly. An overtight bearing is almost as bad. A bearing should be adjusted until there is absolutely no side play. The act of securing the nuts, however, sometimes overtightens the bearings, and for this



GYROSCOPE MOTOR TRICYCLE.

reason the wheel should be spun after the nuts have been tightened. If the wheel stops at all suddenly it is a sign that the bearing is overtight, and it should be simply slackened.

In badly-shaped and ill-adjusted saddles and the desire to "scratches" lie all the hidden dangers of wheeling and a more sensible appreciation of the sport, coupled with better wheels, better saddles and the dissemination of a little practical commonsense has worked wonders with the wheelwoman, and bicycling is now fast regaining much of its former popularity. An uncomfortable saddle should never be ridden, no matter how much it is recommended by one's friends.

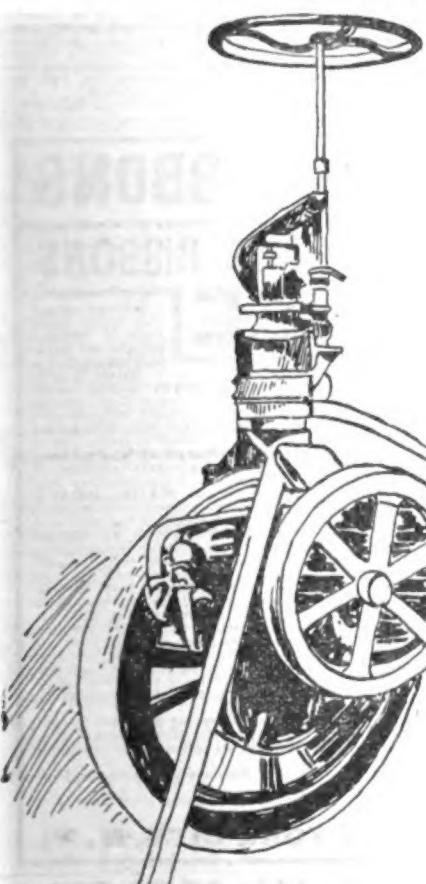
Despite the legion of instruction books that have been published and the number of schools for learning to ride the bicycle, one still sees a great many women making the same old mistakes. They do not sit upright on the machine with the shoulders thrown back, the chest out, and the head erect. Not only is this the most graceful position for riding, but it is also the most healthful. Common sense and vanity are united in this point. The woman who rides with her head and shoulders bent forward over the handle bars is not only hopelessly ungraceful, but deprives herself of the healthful advantages of the exercise, for cramped lungs cannot breathe properly and the heart labors in this position.

The adjustment of the saddle, says a recent writer in Harper's Bazaar, is quite as important as its shape. It should not be tipped forward so as to throw the weight towards the handle bars, nor back so that it becomes necessary to hold one's weight from sliding away. It should bear the body upright so that no effort or extra pressure is necessary to keep from sliding off. In fact, it should be a seat rather than a saddle and as comfortable as possible.

Nothing can be more dangerous than riding with the saddle post too high. The correct reach can easily be tested by sitting upright on the saddle with one pedal down at its lowest point. With the leg straight the arch of the foot under the instep should rest naturally on the pedal—that is, without leaning the body over to lengthen the reach, nor bending the knee to shorten it. It is important also that the saddle be adjusted far enough forward so that one sits directly over her work; nothing is more tiring than riding a bicycle with the saddle too far back or too low. In either case the muscles bend too much and the muscles of the legs soon become exhausted. If the saddle is too far back it is necessary to lean forward in the ungraceful and unhealthy position of the "scratches" in order to reach the handle bars.

Brakes should always be used on bicycles for women, and those which clutch the tire firmly, so as to stop the wheel in a short distance, are particularly desirable. Too much use of the brake, particularly when the wheel is going fast, wears out the front tire, but it will be found very useful in dismounting hurriedly. For the ordinary dismount the bicycle should be slowed up and the weight thrown over to the left foot when the pedal is at the bottom of its circle. As it begins to rise the weight of the dismounting rider will check the progress of the wheel and she can step quietly to the ground. It is not necessary to jump off or to fall off; if the wheel is stopped properly either with the brake or by the use of the body's weight, one can step off just as gracefully and with as little danger as she steps off a curbstone.

Not one woman in ten leads a wheel properly, and for that matter, very few men do either. Most women lean over and with considerable effort push the machine with one hand on each handle bar, but this makes them bend the body uncomfortably or they are so close that the idle pedal constantly strikes their shins as they walk alongside of the bicycle. To avoid this some of them lead a wheel by one handle bar, but it is obviously impossible to guide it prop-



MOTOR WHEEL.

er through mud six inches deep, with as many people on it as could be seated.

A self-propelled invalid's chair is the latest development of the automobile. It was designed by a physician of Toronto, Canada, and carries a four-horse-power motor and sufficient battery capacity for a fifteen mile run at a rate of four and a half miles an hour.

The advent of the self-propelled vehicle has brought to the front accessories similar to

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EDITOR'S NOTE.—The Slocum System is medicine reduced to an exact science by America's foremost specialist, and our readers are urged to take advantage of Dr. Slocum's generous offer. When writing the Doctor please mention *Comfort*.

THESE FOUR REMEDIES

Represent a New system of medicinal treatment for the weak, and those suffering from wasting diseases, or inflammatory conditions of nose, throat and lungs.

The treatment is free. You have only to write to obtain it.

Its efficacy is explained as simply as possible, below.

By the system devised by DR. T. A. SLOCUM, the specialist in pulmonary and kindred diseases, all the requirements of the sick body can be supplied by the **FOUR** remedies constituting his Special Treatment known as **The Slocum System**.

Whatever your disease, **ONE OR MORE** of these four medicines will be of benefit to you.

According to the exigencies of your case, fully explained in the treatise given free with the free medicine, you may take **ONE**, or any **TWO**, or **THREE**, or **ALL FOUR**, in combination.

A cure is **certain** if the simple directions are carefully followed.

The medicines are especially adapted for those who suffer from weak lungs, coughs, sore throat, catarrh, grip, consumption, and other pulmonary troubles.

But they are also of wonderful efficacy in the building of **weak systems**, in purifying the blood, making **meat**, and restoring to weak, sallow people rich and healthy constitutions and complexions.

Female troubles and the many ailments of delicate children are speedily relieved.

The basis of the entire system is a flesh-building, nerve and tissue-renewing **Food**.

Every invalid and sick person needs **strength**. This food gives it.

Many people get the complete system for the sake of the **Food**, which they themselves need, and give away the other three preparations to their friends.

The second article is a **Tonic**. It is good for weak, thin, dyspeptic, nervous people. For those who have no appetite, who need bracing up.

Thousands take only the **Food** and the **Tonic**.

The third preparation is a medicinal healing **Jelly**, in a patent collapsible tube. It cures catarrh. It heals all irritation of the nose, throat and mucous membrane. It gives immediate relief. It is also a dainty application for sore lips, sunburn, rough skin, etc.

Perhaps a million people need this jelly without any of the other articles.

The fourth article is an **Expectorant** and Cough Cure. The only one that can positively be relied upon. Contains no dangerous drugs, and is absolutely safe for children. Goes to the very root of the trouble, and not merely alleviates, but cures.

The four together form a panoply of **strength** against disease in whatever shape it may attack you.

THE FREE OFFER

To obtain these four **FREE** invaluable preparations, illustrated above, all you have to do is to write, mentioning *COMFORT*, in which you read this article, to DR. T. A. SLOCUM, 98 Pine Street, New York, giving your name and full address. The **free medicine** will then be sent you, in the hope that if it does you good, you will recommend it to your friends.

erly in this way; others put the right hand on the saddle and the left on the bar.

The correct method, however, is different from all of these. The wheel should be grasped by the center of the handle bar, with the fingers turned up and divided around the head-post. This way of leading keeps the machine further away from the body, so as not to interfere with walking by it, and at the same time guides it most easily. Instantly that it swerves too close or too far, the front wheel is lifted from the ground and the idle bicycle immediately recovers its balance.

It is really surprising how many women find it difficult to mount a bicycle properly. Instead of taking it at the proper height, they insist on having the pedal too low when they put their weight upon it, and the result is that the wheel does not get enough start before they are on the saddle, the other pedal will turn past the "dead center", the wheel stops and they are forced to jump off again hurriedly.

The right pedal should be fully two-thirds of the way up to mount properly, and the whole weight should be kept on that pedal until it has dropped half way down in its course. Then the machine will start ahead quickly before one takes the saddle, and its force will be enough to carry the left pedal around past the top of its turn and the other foot's pressure on that at once gets the wheel under full headway.

MUSIC GIVEN AWAY.

One hundred and twenty-five Favorite Song Jewels. A large book of music containing words and score of the latest popular songs sung in the theaters and churches everywhere. Comic, Sentimental, Pathetic and Religious. This great collection would cost from \$15 to \$20 in the usual sheet music form. The best collection for home and concertuse ever published. We will give the book as a **FREE** present to any person sending us six cents in stamps for a trial three months' subscription to our sparkling, monthly paper which we are introducing into 100,000 new homes this season.

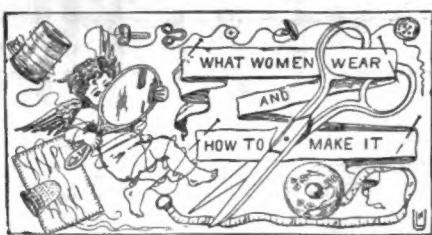
SUNSHINE, Augusta, Maine.

\$18 to \$35 WEEKLY | MEN and WOMEN, At Home or Travelling. Mr. Smith of Ind., made \$207.50 first 6 months. Albert Hill of N. J., \$225 first month. Mr. Williams, clerk, \$144 in 6 weeks. Carrie Williams, clerk, \$222 besides housekeeping. Lida Kennedy, \$240 while teaching.

LET US START YOU—No experience needed. Our agents made over \$47,000.00 last month supplying the enormous demand for our famous Quaker Bath Cabinet and appointing Washstands, Sinks, Wash-basins, etc. We buy business men, families and physicians. No scheme, fraud or fake methods. Write Today for Our Proposition, New Plan, etc. FREE. World Mfg. Co., 47 World Bldg., Cincinnati, O. (We recommend above firm as reliable.—Editor.)

THE ELECTRICITY from the batteries will turn a needle through your table or hand. Cures Rheumatism, Liver and Kidney disease, weak and lame back, etc. For advertising purposes we will give ONE BELT FREE to one person in each locality. Address E. J. SMEAD & Co., Dept. 259, Vineland, N. J.

TEN WEEKS FOR 10 CENTS. That big family paper, *The Western Weekly*, of Denver, Colo. (founded 1890) will be sent ten weeks on trial for 10c. clubs of six 50c; 12 for \$1. Special offer solely to introduce it. Latest mining news and illustrations of scenery, true stories of love and adventure. Address as above and mention *COMFORT*; stamps taken.



WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.

HE majority of women would gladly sacrifice a little style to comfort in the matter of exposing the throat. A stiff linen collar is not the acme of comfort in warm weather and anything in the way of soft neckwear is apt to find a welcome by sensible women. A pretty way to finish the neck of a silk shirt waist made of scarlet and white striped China silk, is to cut the neck square, and finish the opening with a flat band of the silk so folded as to show only the white stripes. At each side is a narrow fall of Valenciennes lace. The soft tie is of plain white silk stitched with a fold down the center finished in the same way. This model will be found ideal for organzines, lawns, gingham, or any soft material. A narrow little piping of soft silk is used as the finish on the neck of a number of the new gowns, which are collarless. Around the throat may be worn with becoming effect several rows of pearls or coral, or a narrow band of black velvet ribbon tied in a bow at the back.

Handkerchief bodices are extremely popular. A sweet one has the yoke of tucked white surah attached to a full lower portion over which is a draped bolero effect in front. A folded girdle extends all around the waist, much higher at the front. Over the shoulders is a large shawl collar made of the border of the handkerchief, the fringed edges forming the trimming. The upper portions of the sleeves are plain, the lower portion being formed by the flowered material.

Stunning indeed are the new Heptonette rain garments and dust cloaks, so far surpassing all that have gone before in that line that comparisons are not to be made. The material is somewhat different from the cravette and much lighter. They are of English manufacture and not to be duplicated in this country. They are in shape very much like a man's Raglan, large and loose differing only at the back when a curved center seam, finished with a broad stitched band takes away the loose effect and renders the garment wonderfully graceful. These cloaks are very light weight and are being worn on all occasions when any sort of wrap is necessary, and will be worn during the fall and winter over the usual outer garment, as a protection from rain or dampness.

The Ladysmith has so taken the fancy of the smart girl that the usual sailor is very seldom seen and is not considered the modish hat of the season. The Ladysmith is seen in a variety of forms, made so by various arrangements of the brim. Sometimes the brim droops all around. Sometimes it droops at the front and sides, rolling at the back and often it rolls gently all around. The usual decoration consists of a folded scarf of flannel, of whatever color desired, (the preference given to brilliant blues and reds) while a binding of the same finishes the brim.



ACCORDION PLEATED LIBERTY SILK.

The separate waist is as popular as ever, but there is a slight difference in the manner of wearing them, the usual black

skirt being considered somewhat passe, unless the waist is made of wash material. To be perfectly correct it is considered quite necessary to wear a skirt of the same color, or, at least some light toned color to harmonize. The wash waist is independent in its habits and combines itself most naturally with skirts of all sorts. White is the preferred color, for waists of lawn, organdie, or silk. Yokes and stiff collars are things of the past. The collarless waist is one of the newest fads, the fronts are arranged in many fanciful ways, sometimes full, cut out square and daintily trimmed with lace and ribbon; sometimes almost plain, with the fronts laid surprise-wise across each other, the edges bordered with lace, etc. With these a little chemisette is sometimes worn, but the loose open neck is usually preferred. It is an easy matter to vary these waists by their trimmings. Small tabs extending from the edge where they close are one form; tucks, hemstitching, open work, appliques of lace and embroidery alternate bands of insertion and ribbon or silk, and various other little touches afford the means of very pleasing changes. Much of the beauty and style of a waist, and, in fact of an entire gown, depends upon the arrangement of ties and belts. The stock has been metamorphosed into a most beautiful confection; now a mass of the finest lace with dainty colors peering through the meshes; now of soft folds of panne or satin, with long ends fastened by rosettes hanging loosely down the front of the garment, or worn fastened at one side. Berthas are very much in vogue and one form is the graceful fichu. If the fichu is short, the ends are tied in small knot on the bosom; if long, they are fastened at one side, or allowed to fall naturally their full length. The fichu is so much in favor that the effect is often sought in the same material as composes the garment itself.

Very attractive are the house jackets of china silk in all the light colors, made up in Kimono fashion with the back and side seams slightly curved, imparting an air of grace not given by the regular Kimono. Bands of lace, usually an inch wide intersect the jacket from hem to shoulder, at regular intervals, as well as the sleeves which are usually loose and open. A soft frill of lace finishes the throat and is jabotted down the front, where knots of ribbon are set to tie it together. Lace, in the heavy varieties, is applied flatly to a number of the newest dressy toilettes. Lace richly strewn with turquoise, coral, amethysts, pearls and rhinestones gives a touch of elegance to the simplest gowns, and is usually applied to the bodice in some telling way.

The collarless Eton or bolero is one of the most comfortable fashions of the season, and one which appeals to the home dressmaker at once. A modish little garment of this sort is made up in white broadcloth, with no back seams, and having the rounded fronts. The edges are finished by an inch wide band of gold braid set on as a binding, while a small gold cord finishes the low neck and wrists. A row of small, round gold buttons set off the front.

A short mess jacket of marine blue broadcloth smartened by stitchings of white and a set of brass buttons is worn with a skirt of white pique laid in side pleats.

YANKEE CITRON.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.

THE GOVERNMENT is trying very hard to introduce the cultivation of the citron in California and Florida, but a difficulty has arisen, owing to the fact that the process of preparing the fruit for market is secret. Indeed, it is kept so close, being peculiarly an Italian art and known only to the few who have handed it down from father to son, generation after generation, that all efforts made to get the recipe up to now have been unsuccessful. Doubtless the Department of Agriculture would be willing to pay a handsome price for it.

The finest commercial citron comes from Corsica, and up to within the last few years all of the fruit that came to the United States was imported in a preserved state. At the present time, however, it arrives merely pickled, and is preserved afterwards. Of course, it is only the rind of the fruit that is utilized, and the pickling consists simply in saturation in brine. Two concerns in New York City and two in Chicago turn out the bulk of the citron sold in this country, employing skilled Italians to do the preserving. How the thing is done they will not tell.

The government has introduced the citron into California and Florida by distributing buds of the plant, with instructions that they be grafted upon orange or lemon stumps. They will grow well in either case, inasmuch as both orange and lemon belong to the same citrus family, but the draft upon the lemon does best. The citron plant is a low straggling bush, the branches of which take root and soon form a dense thicket. When the fruit has reached full size, it sometimes weighs as much as five pounds. Inside, it is divided up into segments or "figs" just like an orange, and the spongy rind is very thick.

The nature of the process for preserving citron is understood in a general way; it is the essential details that are lacking. The rinds are first soaked in fresh cold water to rid them of the pickling salt, after which they are boiled to make them tender and soft enough to absorb the syrup into which they are next put. They must be soaked in eight syrups of different strengths, beginning with the weakest, and this performance requires eight days, because the absorption of sugar must be very

slow in order to be thorough. Next they are boiled in syrup of extra strength, and finally they are candied, to cover the peel with a layer of sugar crystals, and dried on wire netting.

An arrangement has been made with one of the manufacturing concerns in New York by which one hundred pounds of California citron peel are to be placed in its hands for preserving, with a view to ascertaining whether the American-grown article is equal to the Corsican. In order to be a success, our citron must be as good as the foreign brand, of course; otherwise, proof that it could be produced in this country on a commercial scale would be of no value.

CALENDAR SUPERSTITIONS.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.

IT WAS on the fifteenth of August the feast of the Assumption fell when Bishop Hall tells us that it was customary to pray for a blessing upon herbs, plants, roots, and fruits. This custom is referred to in the following old lines:

"The blessed Virgin Marie's feast has here his place and time:
Wherein, departing from the earth, she did the heavens clime;
Great bundles then of herbs to church the people fast doe bear,
The which against all hurtful things the priest doth hallow there."

There was an ancient custom of giving presents of little knives on St. Bartholomew's Day, August twenty-fourth, probably in memory of the knife wherewith the saint suffered martyrdom, since it dates too far back to have its origin in the famous Massacre of Saint Bartholomew that occurred in 1572. The following weather proverb refers to this season of the year:

"All the tears that St. Swithin can cry,
St. Bartholomew's dusty mantle wipes dry."

ON the banks of the small and large streams flowing to the coasts of Maine are laborers who have an art peculiarly their own. As the logs are floated down they are hooked into a certain station where are men, under direction of one wood cutter, who with their axes cut into each log a mark which signifies to whom the log belongs.

These marks are often letters or hieroglyphics and are very quickly and skillfully done, the more essential part being the depth of the cut, so that in the rubbing and scraping the logs necessarily undergo on their way to the sea the marks will not be effaced.

FITS Permanently Cured. No fits or nervousness after first day's use of Dr. Kline's Great Nerve Restorer. Send for **FREE**, \$2.00 trial bottle and treatise. DR. R. H. KLINE, Ltd., 931 E Arch St., Philadelphia, Pa.

A GIFT OF EMBROIDERY SILK.

Embroidery silk will cost you a lot of money bought at the store. We have a great jobbing-house lot of rich silk bought at wholesale. No high retail price with a lot of middle profits; but we get actual cost price. We want to give the whole benefit to our lady readers. We have prepared a lot of assorted packages containing a liberal supply of bright, rich, new silk in a variety of tones and shades, which would cost a heap of money bought at the stores. We will send our illustrated bargain list and full assorted, large sized silk package for the ridiculously low price of ten cents; or, three packages for twenty cents. Write to-day before the rush. S. W. LANE & Co., Augusta, Maine.



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THE NATURAL BODY BRACE

CURES

Female Troubles,
Stooping Posture,
Inflammations,
Internal Pains,
Tired Feeling,
Backache,
Weak Lungs,
Nervousness.

TRIAL FREE.

It will make you comfortable, buoyant, happy—give you ability to work and enjoy life. It is simple, hollow, extremely adjustable to any figure. Worn with or without corset.

We have over 15,000 letters like this: Chandler, Okla., July 27, 1899.

Your Brace did all you said and it is a great boon to me good health, which I had not had before in 22 years. My troubles were dropsy, headache, lung disease, stomach and other ills to which women are subject. MRS. L. B. DICKINSON.

Write today for particulars and illustrated book mailed free in plain sealed envelope. Address The Natural Body Brace Co., Box 27, Salina, Kansas. Every woman should have this Brace.

BEST PAYING THING for Agents is our PHOTO FAMILY RECORDS, OTHER PICTURES, PORTRAITS & FRAMES. Address Dept. I C. P. CORY & CO. 41 & 45 Jefferson St., Chicago.

LADIES WANTED to do writing at home. Good wages. No canvassing. Send stamped envelope for reply. MISS MODELL MILLER, New Carlisle, Ind. Please mention COMFORT when you write.

MORPHINE Laudanum, Opium and kindred Drug Habits permanently cured. German discovery. Home Method. Free Trial Treatment on application. Berlin Remedy Co. 2 East 42d St., New York.

ARE YOU ASHAMED OF YOUR FACE? LOVE be had by all who send five **FREE** 2-cent stamps for postage, wrapping, etc., or a large size of Great Beauteifier; we will also send a package of Arabian Sachet and a booklet on beauty, all free. Goodwill Chem. Co., Room 223, Wamsley Bldg., Salto, Md.

LADIES Make Big Wages AT HOME and will gladly tell you all about my work. It's very pleasant and will easily pay \$12 weekly. This is no deception. I want no money and will gladly send full particulars to all sending 2c. stamp. MRS. A. H. WIGGINS, Box 8, Boston Harbor, N.Y.

HAIR LIKE THIS We will forward **FREE**

To any address, full information how to grow hair from the baldness head stop hair falling, cure weak eyebrows and eyelashes, scanty parting, scurf, dandruff, itching scalp, and restore gray and faded hair to its natural color. Enclose 2-cent stamp for sealed package. Address **FORMIN & CO.**, 931 N. Howard St., Baltimore, Md.

KOIN MONEY. It Won't Turn Silver to Gold, nor Turn Gold to Silver; but it Will Turn Coin Dollars for You. Agents Wanted.

The Electro Polishing Cloth, a wonderful prepared cloth that gives electric brightness and lustre to every metal it touches. Without any powder or paste, simply by rubbing with this cloth, a brilliant lasting polish will be obtained. Turn Gold, Silver, Nickel, Copper, Plated ware, Bicycles, Glass, etc. Bright, absolutely clean, and perfectly free from corrosive tarnish or dirt and will last. The greatest Remedy in the World. For the price of one Polisher Powders, Paste, Liquids and also Chamomile Skins at less than one-quarter the cost. It is especially adapted for cleaning and polishing Metal or Glassware. It does not scratch. Will not injure hands. Can be used until entirely worn out. A moist portion will clean and a dry portion polish until the cloth is worn through. Directions with every cloth. Simple and sure. Ready, Quick, Clean, Economical. The Greatest Invention of the Century.

A Great Offer to All. We want 20,000 agents to sell these Electro Polishing Cloths at fairs, camp meeting, on the street, from house to house, everywhere. You can make \$100 a month profit, young and old, both sexes. Sells like greased lightning. One sample cloth full size, sent free to anyone who will send only 10 cents for agents' price and a paid three month's trial subscription to our charming family paper. The greatest introduction offer ever made; we will give you money if not perfectly satisfied. SUNSHINE, Box 651, AUGUSTA, MAINE.

BARGAIN SALE of SILK RIBBONS

BEAUTIFUL SILK RIBBONS ALMOST FREE

To close out our tremendous large stock of Remnants of Silk Ribbons which

is the largest in quantity, value and variety in New York City, we have marked the **prices way down**. These are the most beautiful Silk Ribbons in the East, and at this remarkable mark-down sale we are making an unprecedented and unparalleled **BARGAIN OFFER**. These beautiful Silk Ribbons were recently purchased at wholesale auction sales, and will enable our lady customers to secure **unheard of bargains**. We are overstocked and must sell them at a **greatly reduced price** from their retail value. These ribbons are really fine ribbons. Please do not judge them by our **MARK-DOWN PRICES**. They are bought in very large quantities at wholesale auction sales, and we generally buy for **spot cash** all the ribbons a mill has. We have bought as high as **\$3,000 worth of these beautiful Silk Ribbons at one time**, and they are certainly of most excellent value. We are anxious to sell a lot of these rare Silk Ribbons in every neighborhood, as their beauty and value at our **CUT PRICES** will sell lots of them to your lady friends.

Now, remember, these remnants are all from one to two or three years in length, and many of them are the **finest quality** of Silk Ribbons in the world, **different widths**, in a variety of fashionable shades; in fact, nearly all colors are represented; also different kinds of Ribbons adapted for **bonnet strings, neckwear, trimming for hats and dresses, bows, scarfs, etc., etc.** No lady can purchase such fine Ribbons as these at any store in the land for many times our price, so that the bargains offered by us should be taken advantage of by our customers.

Our stock of Silk Ribbons, from which we put up these **2-cent** packages, consists of Crown Edge, Gros Gras, Moire, Pique Edge, first-class quality goods.

We will send 1 package for 25 cents, silver, or 25 cents in 2-cent stamps. Carefully packed in boxes, postpaid, upon receipt of price. Address

PARIS RIBBON CO., Box 3044, NEW YORK CITY, N.Y.

AN ART GIFT FOR THE HOME.

There is nothing about a home as necessary as a fine duster. This picture shows the new **All Wool Duster**. Neat and convenient and so soft and clean that it removes all dust without effort. Every duster may be hung in parlor where they make nice ornaments. **Assorted Art Colors with Highly finished wood handle** firmly secured with **Bright Aluminum Ferrule**, that never tarnishes or grows dull. Will last for years and always just the handiest thing a woman can have in the house, or a man in the store or office. Make delightful presents for your friends as a gift or souvenir. Agents will find them the best selling article in the market. Special terms for those who wish to sell. **A GREAT OFFER FOR ALL.** We will send one sample **All Wool Duster** free to any person who will send twelve cents for a trial three months' subscription to our great family paper. The best offer ever made. Address **GOLDEN MOMENTS**, Augusta, Maine.



A GENEROUS OFFER

George B. Wright Discovers a Cure for Lost Manhood and Sends It Free to Every Sufferer Who Will Write for it.

Gratitude is one of the noblest impulses of the human heart and in few instances has this fine quality been so conspicuously exemplified as in the case of George B. Wright of Marshall.

Mr. Wright is a merchant and well known citizen of Marshall, Mich., who was permanently cured of lost manhood and nervous debility after declining health for years. He now devotes his life to helping other men who suffer as he once suffered. Mr. Wright offers to send the medical prescription that effected a cure in his case to every reader of *COMFORT* who is suffering to-day as he suffered. All who will drop him a letter asking for a copy of the prescription will receive it by return mail free of charge.

The following editorial by A. N. Tally, M.D., regarding Mr. Wright's prescription for lost manhood appeared in the December issue of the United States Health Reports, published at Washington, D. C.

We, as the highest American authority on all matters of health, sanitation and hygiene, are constantly receiving letters of inquiry about a reliable cure for lost strength in men.

Therefore we have ordered an investigation to be made into the subject and our medical staff found there were many so-called cures on the market, but that many were worthless and some actually harmful. Therefore when we came upon the prescription furnished free by George B. Wright, a merchant of Marshall, Mich., we instituted a most thorough laboratory examination and found that its wonderful efficacy depended upon its being exactly compounded according to proper chemical requirements, in order to establish the proper chemical actions and reactions in the human system, and that it should especially, and above all, contain each and every ingredient named in the prescription, otherwise it would be quite inactive and worthless.

Properly mixed and containing everything called for in the prescription, its effect upon the nerve centers is truly wonderful and its nerve tonic properties easily surpassed all ordinary methods of medication.

Among the benefactors of the race may be mentioned the said George B. Wright, inasmuch that he gives this grand discovery free to all who write for it.

Taken according to directions it builds up the weak and restores to full size and vigor the nerve muscles. It brings hope and cheer and lifts up the discouraged man so that he once more enjoys the beauties of nature and the pleasures of life. Failure in business and love surely falls upon him who is weakened physically and mentally, and this sad condition is at once relieved and a new man made of him who uses this prescription.

Therefore, upon the highly favorable report of our medical staff we extend to George B. Wright's prescription for lost manhood the full editorial and official indorsement of the United States health reports. As certain as wound leaves a scar, and as sure as effect follows cause, do men live to repent their follies and indiscretions in weakness and suffering. The tortured sufferer may bear no telltale marks of ruin upon his face to betray his lost manhood. He goes to his grave a human wreck, and never tells of his sufferings for fear of shame. Such mental anguish at times drives him to the verge of desperation, and he is easy prey for those vultures in human form—quack doctors—who hold out alluring hopes of cure only to disappoint, and after robbing him of his money, plunge him into absolute despair.

No one can appreciate the horrors of lost manhood except he who has suffered them. No one can help such sufferers except he who knows a cure and has himself been restored to full manhood. A notable cure of lost manhood in an extreme case was effected in the person of George B. Wright, a music dealer and well known citizen of Marshall, Mich. Mr. Wright for years suffered the agony of lost vital power. He saw his physical power go from him as the result of insidious disease, until he was reduced to a condition of senility, and the best doctors in the country gave him up to die.

Like many others, he tried the various remedies offered by specialists for the treatment of weaknesses peculiar to men, and it was this experience that drove him to a little study and research for his own benefit.

He asserts that his ten years' suffering, both mentally and physically, was turned to unbounded joy in a single night through a rare combination of medicines that literally made him young again. It is the prescription of this discovery that his enthusiasm leads him to offer free to any man, young or old, who feels that his animation or the fire of ambition has left him and needs something that will brace him up and enable him to be prepared for any undertaking which may present itself.

There is no question but what in his individual case the results were just as described, and it seems quite probable that any man who believes himself to be weak may profit by sending for this free prescription. Many people wonder how he can afford to send this prescription free, but it costs him little to do so and he feels a philanthropic interest in giving weak men an opportunity to cure themselves.

A request to G. B. Wright, music dealer, Box No. 736 Marshall, Mich., for his free prescription, will be promptly and privately complied with by return mail.

FAIRY VASES OF THE WORLD.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



IN taking up this delightful branch of art we find that pottery is its own historian, and presents in its charming pictorial fashion the domestic, social, and religious customs of all savage and civilized nations on the globe. And not only history, but biography is linked with it, and brings before us many distinguished people as patrons, collectors, and the accomplished potters themselves.

These papers will deal more particularly with some of the world renowned vases which are closely associated with important use or events.

The famous *Alhambra* vase takes its name from the fortress-palace in Grenada, Spain, which was the royal abode of the Moorish kings, who were surrounded with the splendors and refinements of Asiatic luxury.

It was there where they made their last stand for empire in Spain. After Spain passed into the hands of Christians the *Alhambra* palace was occasionally occupied by the Castilian monarchs whose sojourn was transient, and after their departure it again became desolate.

The desertion of the Court was a fatal blow to the *Alhambra*, and a horde of smugglers, thieves, and rogues of all sorts took up their abode in it. But when Grenada fell into the hands of the French, the *Alhambra* was garrisoned by their troops. The Spain of to-day can thank her invaders for having preserved to her this most beautiful and interesting palatial monument.

Alhamar, the first of the Moslem kings, who built the fortress-palace in 1273, was a reputed magician, because his enterprises were so quickly and successfully achieved.

His brilliant kingdom will ever be famous in history and romance. In a silver casket his remains were placed in a sarcophagus of precious marble in the *Alhambra*.

His motto was, "there is no conqueror but God," and through all the generations of his descendants it still appears at the present time emblazoned on the escutcheon in the halls of the palace.

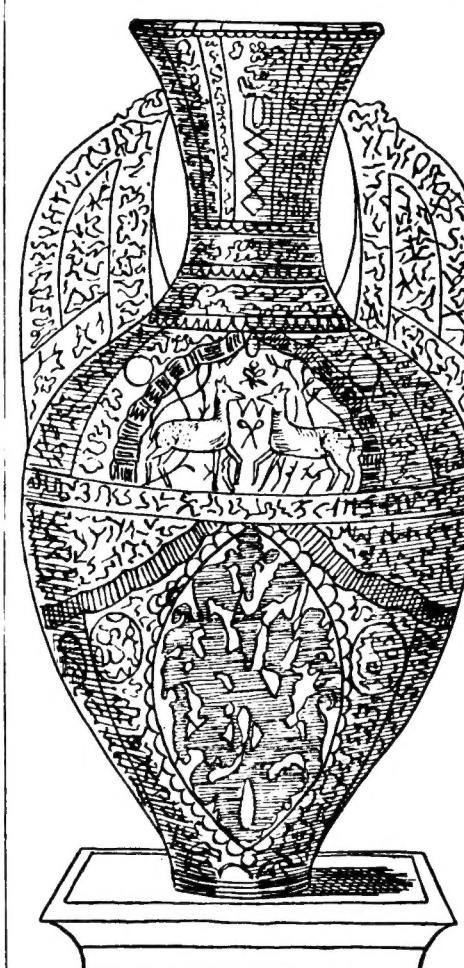
There is no theme among the common people of Spain more prevalent and popular than that of treasures once buried by the Moors.

Any Spanish Muletur will suspend smoking his *rigarrillo* to tell some tale of Moslem gold buried beneath a Moorish Notchtown. These traditions have been handed down from generation to generation among the poor people of the neighborhood. Nor were there always jobles; for during the wars between Moor and Christian which distracted the country for centuries, castles frequently and suddenly changed owners; and during sieges the inhabitants buried their money and jewels in the earth, or hid them in vaults, and wells.

The *Alhambra* palace, of course, from the peculiar circumstances of its history, has been a fertile source for popular fiction of this kind.

At the time of the expulsion of the Moors from Spain, many of them concealed their most precious effects, hoping that their exile would be but temporary, and that they would be enabled to return and retrieve their treasures at some future day.

It is very true, that hoards of gold and silver coin have been accidentally found among the Moorish fortresses, and the few facts have given creation for a thousand fictions. In the ceramic art, or the art of making



THE ALHAMBRA VASE.

pottery we find no relics of this work done before the building of the *Alhambra*. We find among their most celebrated pieces the *Alhambra* Vase, so called from having been found beneath one of the pavements within the courts of the fortress-palace. It is four feet high and was made in 1320, and is com-

posed of fine white earthenware decorated in two shades of blue combined with a copper lustre. It was copied at the *Sevres* pottery in France in 1842, and one of the reproductions now stands in the drawing-room of the Windsor Hotel at Saratoga Springs, and is probably the only one in America.

This famous vase, when discovered, was filled with coins and jewels, and it is supposed that it was hidden there when the Moors were driven from Spain. In this exquisite vase we find the gem of an industry, which once planted on enlightened Christian soil, grew to its present magnificent proportions. Christianity, while it forgot them, absorbed their fate. Why the Christian world should become fascinated with the characteristic arts of the worst enemies of Christendom is a question. But history is full of instances of nations accepting the tastes of nations they have conquered. The European Crusaders, the army of the Cross, quickly absorbed the ideas of Eastern decoration, and transmitted them to the European artists of the middle ages.

The *Alhambra* vase bears evidence of great skill and taste, and is not only a master-piece in ceramic art, but is a magnificent example of the decorative genius of the Moors.

To-day nearly all vases from Spain present Moorish forms, and yet they are inferior to the achievements of the Moors. The Moors achieved a series of successes seldom granted to a people not given to united effort. Little remains of their wandering history except those splendid structures to be seen in Cordova, Grenada, and Seville.

In Moorish art we miss one feature which is so interesting in Egyptian ornament; that of symbolism which the religion of the Moors forbade. They confined themselves to geometrical combinations and the ever graceful arabesque. During the five or six centuries in which the Moors held possession of the finest parts of Spain, it enjoyed a greater measure of prosperity than ever before. The original vase



THE PORTLAND VASE.

now stands in a small room leading into the Lion's Court, and is an object of great beauty and interest to those who visit the *Alhambra*.

The Barberini or *Portland* Vase, this vase as being one of the most celebrated, beautiful, and valuable in existence deserves our attention. Among its competitors it retains an imperial eminence, and asserts the superior standard of ceramic art which was attained in its own unknown era.

It was discovered in a cemetery, the *Monte-del-Grano*, a few miles out of Rome, in the sixteenth century, where it had been placed in a sarcophagus. By the order of Pope Barberini, named Urban VIII. it was removed to the Barberini palace in Rome where it remained for a century. It is thought that it was placed in the tomb about the year 235 after Christ.

It contained ashes, which were supposed to be those of the Emperor Alexander Severus and his mother Julia Mammaca, both of whom were assassinated in the year of 235, during the revolt in Germany. There has been much speculation as to its composition, but connoisseurs have come to the conclusion that it is made of two layers of a substance resembling

opaque glass, and may have been produced in the glassworks at Alexandria in their best period. The groundwork is very dark blue, almost black, and the ornamentation is of another strata, or layer of white, cut like cameo which makes it a very beautiful work of art.

The cameo decorations, which are brought out in relief, are thought to represent certain ceremonies connected with the Eleusinian mysteries, or Greek festivals in honor of Ceres.

There are the compartments or decorations. The first is emblematical of moral life and expressed by a *Libertina* seated upon ruins beneath a deciduous tree, or one losing its leaves. She holds an inverted torch, and two companions with her seem to express the terror with which humor brings gaze upon death.

The second view is immortal life represented by a hero entering the gate of *Elysium*, conducted by Divine Love, and received by Immortality, who is to present him to *Pluto*, the judge of what company he shall seek in *Elysium*. Other theories are that this second view represents *Orpheus*' descent into *Elysium* to recover his beloved *Eurydice*, so elegantly told by *Virgil*; or that *Admetus* is recovering his wife *Alcestis* from *Elysium*. This idea is full of grace and bears the poetical impress.

This rare vase is nine inches high and twenty-nine inches in circumference, and has passed through a number of hands at fabulous prices, and was finally purchased by the Duchess of Portland, and then passed to her son the Duke of Portland in 1786, who placed it in the British Museum in London where it now stands.

In his ambition, Mr. Wedgwood, the prince of English potters, desired to reproduce some of the best works of the ancients. He was a wonderful man and far in advance of his time in the study of the antique. He could not buy the vase, but it was loaned him for a year, and in three years he produced a fine and satisfactory copy, which he produced fifty times.

Some of these are owned by private individuals, and others are in museums where everybody can see them. In this, Wedgwood won a ceramic triumph. Verily, in "Portland Mystic Urn."

AMONG the curious occupations engaged in by inhabitants of some of our great cities is that of gathering old corks. The scavengers on the outlook for these hunt in every conceivable place and collect corks in all stages of newness, some comparatively fresh, some covered with dirt and pitch. These are sold to the second-hand cork merchant for a few cents a hundred, who cleans them in acid and generally freshens them up in appearance, sorts them, and sells them for ten or twelve cents a gross to small bottlers and others who can find use for them.

AMILLION dollars worth of polished petrified wood is to be taken to the Paris Exposition. This wood is hauled from Arizona to South Dakota in great logs and stumps weighing many tons. It is then sawed up in shape for polishing by the huge machinery used for the purpose, but it is such a tedious operation that not more than three inches can be sawed in a day. After being cut and polished the stone is worked up into every conceivable shape, from cuff buttons to tops for tables and great columns, which cost a fortune. This great exhibit will be a fine advertisement for Sioux Falls, where the factory is located, for the reason that nowhere else on earth is there machinery mammoth yet delicate enough to saw, plain and put into shape the variety of useful articles to be on exhibition.

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Published Monthly at Augusta, Maine.

Boston Office, Hancock Building.
New York Office, Temple Court. Chicago Office, Marquette Building.

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There are some features of modern co-operative plans that appeal to the housewife with especial force during August weather. The problem of what to eat in hot weather is a tri-daily torment. A certain New England city offers an easy solution of the vexed question. A "Hot Food Company" undertakes to furnish any or all meals for any and all occasions. You may prepare your own bill of fare and give it to the canvasser and in due time the dinner or lunch arrives in a hot oven. The company's kitchens are located in various parts of the city so that delivery may be prompt.

Old Home Week is to be observed in New Hampshire from the eleventh to the thirteenth of August. Governor Rollins has sent a hearty invitation to all the absent children of the Granite State. There is a beautiful sentiment in the idea as well as a practical business side. The love of the home of childhood is strong in each human heart—it leads the wanderer home no matter how far his feet have strayed. Those who have been successful return and their presence is an inspiration to the young. Fame and fortune may be won in that world beyond the circling hills. To a foreigner this divided allegiance of Americans must seem like an anomaly. They love the nation but above all they love their native state. Large cities like New York boast clubs of residents that formerly owed allegiance to other states and keep up their love by forming societies known by the names of their native state. New Hampshire is the only state that has elaborated the idea of a reunion within its borders of all absent children.

The American people who have established the vacation have received no little pause for the fact. There is one rather amusing development that comes from an inspection of hotel registers. The "rush" idea is being applied to vacation with a serious prospect of limiting the possible good that may come from rest. In other words vacation is coming to mean only a change of the scene of hurry. The old-fashioned idea was to settle one's self as comfortably as possible for the week or month of summer that was to be spent in rest and there proceed to rest. Now the multi-millionaire rushes from his country house to Newport, thence to the Adirondacks, with a possible trip to Europe thrown in. The person of more modest income repeats the programme in so far as his means admit and hurries from one place to another in the two weeks that he devotes to vacation. Mental rest may come from change but there is a physical side to vacation that the new style of "hurry" leaves all unprovided for. We Americans must hurry—even when we are supposed to be resting.

A Philadelphia artist announces the startling fact that the feminine neck has increased one inch in length during the last five years. His attention was first drawn to the fact by an observation of the portraits in the Academy. A tape measure was applied to the portraits painted ten years ago, five years ago and now; the data produced the result—one inch increase in five years. Not for rhetoric only have we coined the classical phrase "rubbernecking". The added inch however while it may be a cause of "rubbering" is not a result of the habit. No; it is the clean prim linen collars. First they were accused of ruining the neck, then young women were urged to use them for when they were old they could not; now they are to be responsible for the actual "swan like necks" that poetry has lauded so long. It may

possibly be that women have noticed the way their heads were going up in the air and that this accounts for the collarless gown of the latest mode. One wonders what the artist would say to the portraits of our grandmothers with the long necks and sloping shoulders. No linen collar then, surely.

A district messenger boy has made the long voyage to the Transvaal to deliver a message of sympathy to Oom Paul from some of the High School boys of America. This is only another development of the use of school children in political matters. It is foolish in the extreme for this reason if no other. Boys of the high school age can not form opinions independently and it is a moral wrong to influence them to partisanship. As Dooley remarked "Politics is a man's game and women and children and prohibitionists had best keep out of it." It is deplorable to use youth as a means of creating excitement or sympathy for a cause. Our Canadian friends saw in this an attempt to show anti-English spirit and proposed to retaliate by sending a Canadian school boy with a message of sympathy to Aguinaldo. The project has met with little support, the most enthusiastic interest however being shown in the United States. Many letters from Americans who approved the scheme were received. When children are brought into the game of nations for simply spectacular purposes every thinking person must feel a certain humiliation.

The lovers of the phrase "Figures will not lie" anticipate a rich feast in the statistical fact of the present census. The colored maid who prefaced the question of the census enumerator by announcing that the "sensitive man" had come stated but half the truth. Even the most callous collector of facts might become sensitive over the manner in which the questions prescribed by law were answered. The details of enumerators are no doubt amusing enough but they will sink into insignificance beside the deductions that the professional jugglers with fact, fancy and figures will produce. Of all weird and wonderful liars in existence figures are easily first. The census of 1890 states that there are 79,032 more married males in the United States than there are married females. As the widowed are tabulated separately there is but one logical conclusion to be drawn from these figures—that is that a large per cent. of the married women of the United States are bigamists who haven't been discovered by the law. The absurdities of statistical deductions could be multiplied indefinitely. The simplest way is to fortify yourself against being influenced by any sweeping conclusions drawn from the census of 1900.

Holland is holding a Royal Dutch Naval Exhibition which has been throughout the summer and continues until September. One of the royal palaces at the Hague is in use for the exhibition and the young queen has ordered medals to be presented to the most important exhibitors. The exhibition comprises portraits of celebrated naval commanders, descriptions of voyages, charts, models of vessels, and many other records and mementoes of the success of Holland on the sea. Holland was the first nation of the world to attain any rank as a commercial and seafaring power. With the thrifty spirit that has marked Dutch enterprise they sent ships to all the seven seas and their commerce and settlements followed their ships. Holland was one of the earliest nations to become a colonial power and to-day its colonies are five times the size of the mother country. They became the carriers of Europe. England early saw the menace to her commercial interests and in 1651 first passed the Navigation Laws that demanded that all English colonies should trade only in English ships. This was aimed especially at Holland which was then at war with England. It was the commencement of England's colonial power although it was an indirect cause of the loss of her American colonies. The powerful trading companies like the Dutch East India Company have had few rivals. The greatness of Holland has been in its supremacy as a trading nation. Our greatest city once named New Amsterdam is a lasting monument of the foresight of these old Dutch traders. For this reason if no other Americans feel a special interest in the exhibition of Holland's Navy.

There is a somewhat despairing tone in the voice of the conservatives who shrink from the threshold of the new national life that is forced upon us. Hawaii, The Philippines, Porto Rico and the troubles in China all means a new national policy. To the student who rereads the neutrality ideas of Washington as shown in 1789 when Citizen Genet was seeking our aid, and again in his farewell address when he reiterated the declaration that we should keep clear from entangling foreign alliances, we seem to be drifting far from the policy of our fathers. The Monroe Doctrine is but an amplification of Washington's ideas. The recent suggestions made by our Secretary of State in regard to the possibility of either re-affirming or abandoning this principle awakened much apprehension. To the thinker familiar with the history of nations there seems little to awaken apprehension. We can not reconcile the present with the past. To make a fetish of the wise utterances of the men who thought and spoke for the republic in its youth is to

announce once for all an end to progress. Jefferson, Hamilton, Washington all and each spoke for the age in which they lived and for our nation in its infancy. Even as strong a party man as Jefferson repudiated his own spoken utterances and the principles of his party when it seemed wisdom to purchase Louisiana. We can not look backwards but forwards. The history of every nation shows a conflict between a party of progress and a party demanding the holding to old conditions. The answer of history shows the inevitable result of the struggle. The history of civilization shows that progress is inevitable and that traditions and precedent must be abandoned at some stage of the advance. China to-day is passing through the struggle but the outcome is plain. Our traditions and precedents must be set aside in the face of new conditions.

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163	Dewey's Grand Triumphal March	Notes	261	19 E Dunno, Where 'E Are, Come	Beets
117	Echoing Trumpets March	Durkee	262	16 Elialine, Waltz song	Bliss
121	Electric Light Galop	Robinson	263	16 Far Away	Bliss
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183	Golden Rain, Nocturne	Cloy	275	16 Gypsy Countess, Duet	Baile
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53	Greeting of Spring, Op. 21	Schultz	277	16 I Can't Forget the Happy Past	Skelly
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207	May Breezes, Four hands	Krug	293	16 Memories of my Mother, Chorus	Allen
263	May Day Schottische	Krefer	294	16 Mother's Cry, A, (Salvation Army)	Adriance
225	McKinley and Hobart March	Tucker	295	16 Mother's Welcome at the Door	Estabrook
52	Memorial Day March	Hurst	296	16 Musical Dialogue, Duet	Himmler
131	Monastery Bells, Nocturne	Welti	297	16 Must the Sweetest blind	O'Halloran
89	Morning Dew, Op. 18	Smith	298	16 My Home by the Old Mill	Wright
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LONGING.

WORDS AND MELODY BY JEAN MCDONALD.

ARRANGED BY LEAFY PACE.

1. Back to the old home view - ing scenes of child - hood, there's where I
 2. Tho' I am old now still I love to lin - ger on hap - py

know no care or pain; There in my child - ish glee, un - der the wood-land tree, Oh! how I long to go to
 that's of by - gone days; When thro' the woods I roamed, far from the dear old home, Gath-er - ing the scent - ed flow - ers

the old home once a - gain; . . . When in my dream-ing, vis-lons rise be - fore me and seem to take me back once more.
 that grew a - long the way. . . Now I'm a - lone, no lov - ing hands to soothe me, those that I loved have gone be - fore.

Back to that spot so dear, with moth - er stand - ing near; Yes, I can see her in those hap - py days of yore.
 But while my loved ones wait, there at the gold - en gate, Take me, oh, take me back to the dear old home once more.

CHORUS.

Back to the old home take me, Where in my child-hood I roamed, Back to the scenes of those
 joy - ous days, Back to the dear old home.

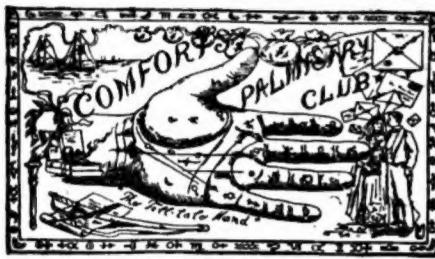
After 1st verse only.

FINE. D.S.

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Unfortunate Singers. After a career of dazzling success and great prosperity the De Reszkes are both in Europe meeting with some misfortunes. It is openly published that the magnificent tenor voice of Jean De Reszke has completely given out; and that it is doubtful if he is ever again able to continue a public career. How great is this misfortune can be judged from the fact that he receives from \$1500 to \$2500 for an evening's performance. His brother, Edouard, left this country in April with the intention of visiting his three daughters at boarding school in Paris, before returning to Poland where his wife and youngest daughter live. The latter died shortly after her father's return and he was obliged to hurry the sisters back to Poland. Less than a year ago he lost an only son when only a few months old.

COMFORT again takes occasion this month to call the attention of its readers to the music offer on another page. The elegant sheet music obtainable under this offer is absolutely guaranteed satisfactory to our friends. If you will try it once we will cheerfully refund the money should it prove in the least disappointing; but it will not. Try it yourself and ask your friends to.



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To have one's hands read in this department, by Digitus, one of the finest living palmists, it is necessary to observe the following conditions:

Impressions of both hands must be sent, fully postpaid and having the name, address and nom de plume of the sender enclosed in the package also.

The package must in every instance be accompanied by the names and addresses of eight new subscribers at twenty-five cents each, the whole amount, \$2.00 being remitted, with the package, addressed to COMFORT PALMISTRY CLUB, Augusta, Maine.

No notice will be taken of impressions and requests for readings unless the sender has fully complied with the above conditions.

To take impressions, first hold two large pieces of blank paper over a candle or similar flame, until they are heavily coated with the smoke. Then lay these pieces down, smoke side uppermost on a pad of cotton. Now place the two hands, palms downward, one on each sheet of paper, pressing firmly and steadily down, but taking care not to move the hand. Keep them so for one minute and lift carefully, so as not to disturb the impression. Have ready some fixative, which can be bought at a drug store or an art store or made with gum arabic and water in an atomizer. Then spray this over the impressions before they are moved and allow them to dry. Then they are ready to send.

Smoked paper impressions are the best. But if it is desired to send a plaster cast, take plaster of Paris and dissolve in water to the consistency of thick cream. Pour this into a large shallow dish and when it is hardening place the hand, well-greased, palm downward, in the plaster, pressing downward. Several minutes will be required to get this impression and great care must be taken in removing the hand, not to break the plaster. Casts are exceedingly difficult to send without breaking and should be very carefully packed in a box with the name of the sender written on it. Putty is sometimes successfully used in place of plaster. A good photograph if sufficiently well taken to bring out all the lines, can also be read, although in all cases the smoked paper is the best, if properly treated with fixative.

Bear in Mind that all the above conditions must be observed.

Also, that letters not complying with them will go into the waste-basket. Readings cannot appear for several months after impressions are sent.

IHAVE had so many inquiries regarding the lines of marriage that I am going to quote from my friend Cheiro in regard to them. He does not follow exactly the same rule that some of the palmists do, but I have noticed that he is much more correct in his prognostications than some of the other readers are. He says what I have always maintained in this respect, that the lines under the fourth finger must be balanced by marks on other portions of the hand, as, for instance, on the side of the line of fate or the lines of influence by the side of the lines of life. He notices another thing that the lines of marriage may be on the side of the hand or may be only marked across the front of the Mount of Mercury. The long lines relate to marriage, the short ones meaning only engagements or short love affairs. On the line of life or fate, if it be marriage we will find it corroborated and information given as to the change in life, position of the marriage line on the Mount of Mercury a very fair idea of the age at the time of marriage may also be obtained.

When the important line is found lying close to the line of heart, the union will be early, about fourteen to twenty-one; near the center of the mount, about twenty-one to twenty-eight; three-quarters up the mount, twenty-eight to thirty-five; and so on. But the line of fate or the line of life will be more accurate, by giving almost the exact date of the change of influence.

A wealthy union is shown by a strong, well-marked line from the side of the line of fate next Luna, running up and joining the line of fate, when the marriage line on Mercury is also well marked.

When, however, the line of influence rises straight on the Mount of Luna and then runs up and into the fate line, the marriage will be more the capricious fancy than real affection.

When the line of influence is stronger than the subject's line of fate, then the person the subject marries will have greater power and more individuality than the subject.

The happiest mark of marriage on the line of fate is when the influence line lies close to the fate line and runs even with it.

The line of marriage on the Mount of Mercury should be straight, without breaks, crosses, or irregularities of any kind.

When it curves or droops downward toward the line of heart, it foretells that the person with whom the subject is married will die first.

When the lines curve upward, the possessor is not likely to marry at any time.

When the line of marriage is distinct, but with fine hair-lines dropping from it toward the line of heart, it foretells trouble brought on by the illness and bad health of the person whom the subject marries.

When the line droops with a small cross over the curve, the person the subject is married to will die by accident or sudden death; but when there is a long, gradual curve, gradual ill health will cause the end.

When the line has an island in the center or at any portion, it denotes some very great trouble in married life and a separation while the island lasts.

When the line divides at the end with a drooping fork sloping toward the center of the hand, it tells of divorce or a judicial separation. This is all the more certain if a fine line cross from it to the plain of Mars.

When the line is full of little islands and drooping lines, the subject should be warned not to marry. Such a mark is a sign of the greatest unhappiness.

When full of little islands and forked it is again a sign of unhappiness in marriage.

When the line breaks in two, it denotes a sudden break in the married life.

When the line of marriage sends an offshoot on to the Mount of Sun and into the line of



GOV. ALTGELD.

sun, it tells that its possessor will marry some one of distinction, and generally a person in some way famous.

When, on the contrary, it goes downward and cuts the line of sun, the person on whose hand it appears will lose position through marriage.

When a deep line from the top of the mount grows downward and cuts the line of marriage, there will be a great obstacle and opposition to such marriage.

When there is a fine line running parallel with and almost touching the marriage line, it tells of some deep affection after marriage on the side of the person on whose hand it appears.

With these rules from one so prominent and so successful as Cheiro, I believe that the students in this department will obtain much help and be able to go on and read hands quite freely.

The best fate line starts from the rascette and goes straight up through the hand to the Mount of Saturn and even sometimes goes on up to the second joint of the middle finger which indicates great fortune. If the line goes over to the Mount of Apollo it indicates fortune from art or wealth. A perfectly straight line with branches going upward from its two sides indicates a gradual progress from poverty to riches. Straightness and good color from the line of heart up show good fortune in old age with invention in science and a love of country life. A good and well-traced fate line will offset at any time the evil indications of a badly formed life line and will even give a long life.

If the fate line only starts from the line of head it indicates pain and ill health early in life, but with a good head line will indicate fortune acquired late by the intelligence of the subject. It is a very bad sign to have the fate line start from the quadrangle and go only to the Mount of Saturn. If it starts all right at the bottom of the hand and then disappears for a time appearing again later, it indicates that there will be a period of bad luck extending over such length of time as is indicated by the absence of the line, that is, if there is a gap or break from the line of head to just below the line of heart, there will be misfortunes between the ages of thirty and forty and a connecting line will usually show the cause of the ill luck.

I have only one hand to reproduce this month and that is the hand of Governor Altgeld of Illinois. This is a peculiarly marked hand of a very stubborn, phlegmatic individual. It is easy to be seen that the owner of this hand would not be coerced by any war of words, that he would be a hard enemy to deal with. He is a man of very strong personality and one who has had to fight his way from his youth up. His mentality is not very strong except as he has a sort of bulldog pugnacity which helps him. He has considerable tact, however, much more than we should expect in a man like him. His head line is very short, but it indicates that he will have the courage of his convictions. This is indicated elsewhere in his hand to such a degree that he is almost headstrong. He would not give in to anybody else even though he knew that he was in the wrong he would not give up. He has a tremendous will power and an unbounded love of authority, which will keep him at the head of things when discouragements are so great that other men would quickly yield. He had many obstacles to fight against in the first part of his life, but has persevered and will live to his allotted three score years and ten, unless some sudden accident carries him off. He has had a great many things to worry and annoy him and during the first half of his life more than the world realizes. He cares but little for the opposite sex and marriage and family ties are of but little consideration to him. He is, however, a good business man and will accumulate property as long as he lives.

One of the important things to be remembered by the student is the difference between the right and left hands. There is a marked difference between them in the case of nearly everyone and the reader should examine both and depend more upon the information contained in the right hand than in the left, since the right shows the strength and experience, while the left shows the natural character. Place both hands side by side and examine them carefully. In case of a left-handed person, the left is the one to be depended upon.

The shape of the hand also has a great deal to do with the reading of it. The indications are by no means confined to the palm. The reading of the shape and quality of the hand is called chiromancy and gives us a superficial idea, by the formation and general appearance, of the character and disposition. Remember there are seven types of hands. Note the palm of the hand, whether it is thick or thin, well proportioned or over developed, hard or soft, whether the palm is hollow and whether there is any excess of formation; then consider the joints, whether they are developed fully or abnormally, whether the fingers are smooth or jointed and the quality of the joints, then take into account the comparative length of the fingers and the size of the hand and the hand writing if possible, the general qualities of the fingers and the finger tips, whether square, spatulate, round or conical and the color of the hands; hairiness of the hand must also be taken into account as it indicates strength of character or the absence of it.

Consider the thumb, first and second joints, as to whether the will, reason and tact are developed, whether the thumb be large or small and the modifying signs on it. The construction of the hand is important and each individual finger must be studied with all its characteristics. Then the habitual action and natural position of the hand must be accounted for and the finger nails, whether they are short, broad, wide or narrow in shape and the quality of them also.

The seven types are the elementary or necessary hand, the spatulate, active hand, the conical artistic hand, the square or useful hand, the knotty hand, the pointed or Psyche hand and one which is more common and may be made up of any two or three of the other types.

Digitus

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The Postal Exhibit at Paris.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



NOTABLE feature of the United States display at the Paris Exposition will be that of the Postal exhibit. This is in charge of Mr. George W. Beavers, chief of the salary and allowance division of the United States Postoffice, who proposes to establish a model post office in the building set apart for the United States exhibit. This will serve a double purpose, as it will not only give visitors to the exposition an actual, practical

working model of our postal system, but, as it will handle all mail belonging to citizens of our country visiting the exposition, it will be of inestimable value to such visitors. In this model postoffice it will be possible to watch the progress of letters from the moment they are mailed; to see them collected, turned in at the office, assorted, stamped, and distributed according to States. The cancelling machines now in use in this department, and which have made such a revolution in the past few years in the handling of mail, will be at work here in several different patterns, as well as all other recent devices for lessening the labor and expediting the work of the postal service. Mr. Beavers has for some months been in correspondence with the manufacturers who furnish apparatus of various kinds for handling the work of a first-class office, and their response has been so generous that he is already well supplied with samples of all the appliances used in the service.

Mr. Beavers has also in his exhibit examples of the system of files and of the method of filing applications for increase of salary and allowance which he has invented and which are in use in his division in the national post-office in Washington. This system of files is the most complete and satisfactory of any now in use in any department, and is well worth the careful study of the visitor interested in such matters.

There will also be a display, in this exhibit, of articles from the United States Postoffice Museum, showing the curious articles which sometimes go through the mails.

There is also here a full issue of all the stamps used at present in the United States, also a full collection of all issues since the stamping system was first invented.

Another interesting portion of this exhibit is that of the development of the postal service, from the pack pony, the horse and saddle bags, dogs drawing a sledge, etc., to the modern mail car with all the latest improvements.

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Shaving Set packed in a case eight inches long, twelve wide and five inches high. The combination consists of 1 Royal and Swedish Razor, single value, \$3.00; 1 Genuine, Horsehair Double, Reversible, Canvas-back, Nickel-hung, Ebонized handle Razor, value \$1.00; 1 Real China Shaving Mug; 1 Cake Star Shaving Soap; 1 Best Bristle, large handle Lather Brush; 1 Cake Perfumed Lamp Magnesia; 1 Stick rich perfumed Cosmetic, making a grand \$5.00 value. Every man should have an outfit in the house for emergency. Every woman should see to it that either her Father, her Husband, her Brother or Sweetheart has one of these outfits. They make the best presents one can give to a gentleman.

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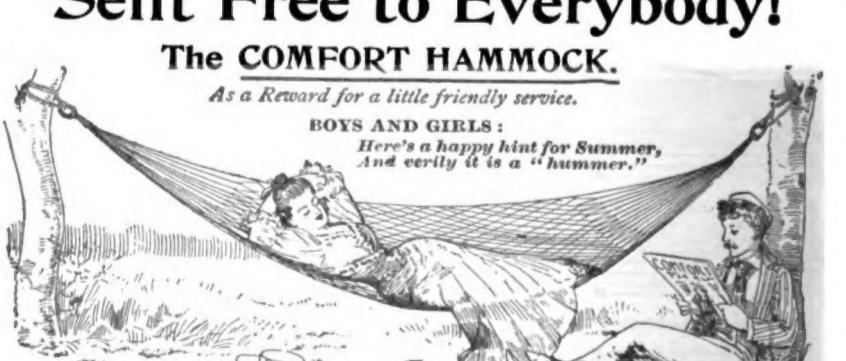
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shall place on the Free List, upon the conditions specified below. This will enable every one who is willing to render us a little service, to secure one absolutely free. These Hammocks are over 4 feet long, every one is tested to carry 300 lb. dead weight, is supplied with strong, white metal rings at the ends.

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EDITOR'S NOTE. The following rules govern the publication of matter in this department.

Contributors must without exception be regular subscribers to *Comfort*, and every contribution must bear the writer's own name and post-office address in full.

Original letters only, which deal with matters of general interest, will be published. They must be as brief, plain and correct as the writers can make them, and may vary in length from one hundred to four hundred words. Only letters of exceptional merit and interest may reach six hundred and fifty words. Contributors must write on one side of the paper only.

\$10 CASH PRIZES \$10.

The following cash prizes will be paid monthly:

1st. For the best original letter	\$3.00
2nd. " " second best original letter	2.50
3rd. " " third " "	2.00
4th. " " fourth " "	1.50
5th. " " fifth " "	1.00

Competitors for these monthly cash prizes must comply with all the above rules, and in addition must bring at least one new Cousin into the *Comfort* circle; that is, they must send one new subscriber with each letter, together with 50 cents for a yearly subscription.

These cash prizes will be announced monthly in this department.

No premiums will be given for subscriptions sent in under this Prize Offer.

All communications must be addressed to Aunt Minerva, care of *COMFORT*, Augusta, Maine.

CASH PRIZE WINNERS.

Louisa M. Rogers.	\$3.00
B. T. Max.	2.50
Iva B. Clark.	1.00

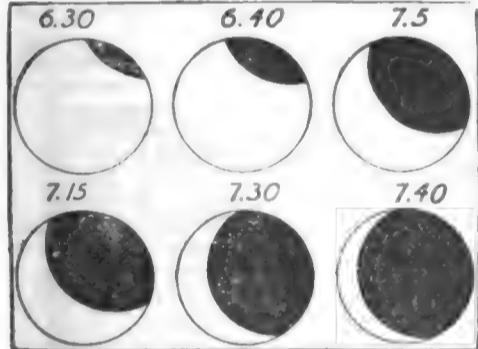
EAR NIECES AND NEPHEWS:

Welcome to you all. And a warm welcome it must of necessity be this hot August weather. I wish I could gather you all together with me on the Maine sea-shore or in the Colorado mountains to read this month's packet of letters; but since that is impossible let us each make herself or himself as comfortable as individual circumstances will allow while reading them.

Our first letter explains itself, and will, I think, although late in reaching you, be interesting to all who were not so fortunate as to see the eclipse for themselves. I had the pleasure of watching it from the navy yard in Portsmouth, Va., and my impressions of it were much the same as those of Mrs. Rogers.

"I think your many readers will be deeply interested in description of the grand solar eclipse of 1900.

"Our classic little city was fortunate enough to be in the very center of the belt of totality, and Macon, Atlanta and other large cities sent their hundreds to this capital of the eclipse. On a woodland slope near the suburbs Prof. Updegraff of the Naval Observatory at Washington established his



PHASES OF THE ECLIPSE.

One astronomical apparatus, an immense spectro-scope, water clock, powerful telescopes and other useful arrangements for observation. On another eminence, not far distant, were representatives of the ancient universities of Leyden and Utrecht, while on a level space almost in the city, was the plant of the New Jersey Observatory. About two miles west, on a spur of the mountain, was stationed Prof. Lord of the University of Ohio, while on another well chosen spot was the tent of the Philadelphia High School.

"Ordinary business was suspended and at five o'clock, when the Queen of Morn had lightly tipped each hill with gold, hundreds of people wended their way to the great reservoir which crowns Mount Hawthorn. There it was thought the shadow bands would be manifested more distinctly. It is a favored spot indeed, not only for witnessing an eclipse, but for gorgeous sunsets and all things bright to lovers of Nature. There is a magnificent view of the surrounding hills, broad cotton fields, vineyards and peach orchards, while the city with its factories, cotton mills, church steeples and beautiful homes presents a picture worth seeing at any time, independent of an eclipse.

"The times of the contact, which are observable on the cut, were in accordance with the predictions of the astronomers. Just before the period of totality wavy shadows like ripples of water moved onward from the west and cast upon open spaces crescent-shaped figures, being a reflection of the sun's image at that moment. On the horizon in every direction was a broad belt of grayish blue, blending into crimson, then into pale pink, and finally assuming a salmon hue before blending with the solemn leaden shade of the sky. The moon was no longer a fair, pale goddess but an immense ball of midnight blackness which impertinently obstructed its grandeur upon the glorious orb of day, jealously shutting out the last golden ray. A deep stillness fell upon the expectant throng. A weird, unearthly shadow was over the world. Every heart was subdued and felt the presence of a mighty, unseen Power beyond all this. One could scarcely distinguish his best friend. But see! there is a brilliant circle of dazzling light around the dark shadow of the moon and two great bands of light! That is the corona, such as the immaculate halo that surrounds the Eternal King. Is it not grand beyond expression! The astronomers say those rays extend over millions of miles.

"To the right proud Mercury sat in majestic contemplation, while farther down was beautiful Aldebaran, both revealing for the first time their glory to Aurora. In a few moments the great eyes-

tial display was over and we returned to every-day life with a magnificent scene which time can never efface, pictured on memory's walls."

LOULA K. ROGERS, BARNESVILLE, GA.

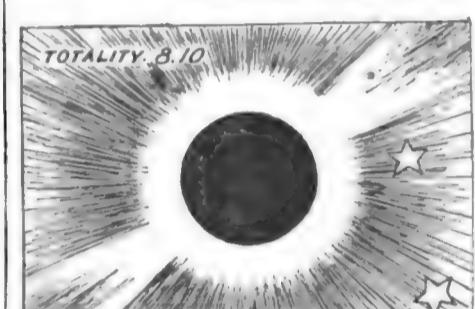
At my point of observation of the eclipse various objects, leaves of trees, the rims of our hats, and even straight articles, gave these same crescent-shaped shadows, with the strange phenomenon that these shadows were not heavy and black, but mere lace-like edges of shadow. The corona seemed to me to be of dazzling golden light instead of "white" as our writer saw it, and the "two great bands of light" resembled, as I saw them, the shafts of light which shoot out from the Aurora Borealis. Strange, indeed, was it to see the stars appear, one after another, in the somber sky, while the beautiful dawn tints on the horizon were wonderful to behold.

Here is a letter from our cousin who is a page in the Texas Legislature.

Port Arthur is situated on Sabine Lake in the southeastern extremity of Texas. The lake is too shallow for navigation of ocean steamers, but the enterprising people procured three large dredge boats, and worked them night and day for two years, and the result is they have made a channel through the prairie eight miles long, sixteen feet wide and from sixteen to twenty-five feet deep. I saw the first steamer that ever came through it, the United States Revenue Cutter Galveston, and as it came up to the wharf after its trip, the United States band of the 2d. Mo. U. S. V. played the Star Spangled Banner, all the whistles blew and cannon boomed, and the Port Arthur channel was formally opened, and a new port was given to Texas, one that will add to its commercial facilities ten fold.

"After a trip on the channel we returned and inspected the mammoth grain elevator, which has a carrying capacity of thirty thousand bushels per hour, which is said to be the greatest carrying capacity of any elevator in the world."

ALBERT ADAMS, Austin, Texas.



Our next letter is a deeply interesting one.

"The Massachusetts Reformatory is located at Concord, that famous old town of many historic associations. What odd contrasts of old and new! The battlefield, and recently erected monument, -

'By the rude bridge which spanned the flood, - Their flag to Freedom's breeze unfurled. The rude, embattled farmers stood, And fired the shot heard round the world.'

"Emerson's home is on one side of the village, and the Reformatory on the other; the 'Wayside', where Hawthorne wrote, and where later Louise M. Alcott evolved her winsome 'Little Women', the 'Hall of Philosophy' are there; and on the same street the farm on which was originated that most popular of fruits, the 'Concord grape.'

"It was not of Concord I started to write, however, but of an incident at the Reformatory. About four years ago a young man was sent there from the police court of Boston. He had been convicted of assault with intent to rob. He was a notoriously tough character, who had been arrested several times before, and who was known to the police as always ready to fight. When placed in the Reformatory he was sullen and rebellious, and very soon had to be punished. All the inmates of the Reformatory learn a trade. This man was set to engraving. He was very soon found to have a decided talent for this. In the room where he worked was some clay for modeling. One day he picked up a piece and almost involuntarily moulded it into an artistic object. He was transferred to that department and soon developed remarkable talent. He modeled a beautiful, life-size head of the Madonna. Then he took as a model one of the boys in the shop, and made a capital life-size likeness of him. The Superintendent, Mr. J. F. Scott, took so much interest in the case that he had an experienced workman come up from Boston to give the prisoner several lessons. The work occupied two years, and under its influence the 'tough' prisoner became a changed man. At first he was as quick tempered and ugly as ever, but when he became angry he seemed to stop and say to himself, 'Now if I'm not careful what I do I shall be punished.' That would mean depriving him of the time to work at his favorite occupation, and in the end the desire to keep on with this would conquer. His deportment came to be so good that he was released after a confinement of two years, and is now employed as a successful carver in an establishment in a large city where he gets good pay and has an opportunity to study evenings in a first class art school.

B. T. MAX, Concord, N. H.

Here is a new cousin who tells us of her far western home.

"My home is in beautiful Lark Valley, Santa Cruz County, California, about four miles northwest of Watsonville, and three miles east, but not in sight, of the bay of Monterey. This valley is about three miles long and contains about two thousand acres of fertile, well watered land adapted to the culture of grain, fruit, berries, etc. The water is pure and soft, all coming from springs. The valley is well sheltered from coast wind and fog by a low range of hills.

"From the hill west of our house one can command a splendid view of the surrounding country. To the eastward lies the Conditos Ranch, then Green Valley. Next beyond these lies the southern portion of the Santa Cruz mountains, upon whose rugged sides the grand redwoods, once monarchs of the mountains, have in many places almost entirely given way to the woodman's axe and are fast being replaced by orchard tree and vine. Even the sides of Loma Prietas—the highest point of the range within our ken, are being desecrated by the irrepressible orchardist. Alas! poor brain must depart from his native chaparral. In times gone by there were innumerable California lions or cougars, grizzly bears and rattlesnakes here. South of all this, reaching from mountains to sea, lies the renowned Pajaw Valley, celebrated for its excellent land, its lovely scenery, its apple orchards and its hop yards, its strawberries and its sugar beets, which until last year were crushed at the Watsonville Beet Sugar Factory, owned and operated by Claus Spreckles. Last year he had all shipped to his new factory, the largest in the world, near Salinas city. Also Pajaw Valley can boast of its beautiful tree-dotted town, Watsonville, a most thriving little city of some five thousand inhabitants. And last but not least, its splendid chain of five fresh water lakes, fed by subterranean mountain streams and drained by small streams into Pajaw river.

"On the eastern bank of the largest, College Lake, stands the Pajaw Valley Orphanage, which affords a home and tuition for some four hundred homeless boys. A large farm and orchard attached furnish a portion of their support and the state also appropriates money yearly for their maintenance. It is under the supervision of the German Franciscan Fathers."

IVEA B. CLARK, Watsonville, Cal.

Dear me! Rosa, I'm afraid you do not read my page carefully. We often have letters from Texas.

Our Texas cousins are very kind to us; but your letter is just as welcome as if we had no others.

"Much has been said about other states, but I haven't seen a letter from Texas. This part of the state is black land, mostly prairie. In summer the prairies are covered with sweet flowers of all colors, with an abundance of wild roses. How many of you cousins can make artificial flowers? I can make both paper and cloth flowers, and I will tell you how to make a paper rose. Take a strip of tissue paper one and one half inches wide and about twenty-five inches long; fold up until one inch across, then scallop the top. Have your center fixed on a small wire, then take a hot pin and roll each side of the scallops; then press both thumbs together, that will make the scallop wrinkled, then fold around and around the wire, then take another strip of paper and fix as above, roll this strip on backwards; then take green paper and wrap your wire and let green extend up on the rose leaves. If you cousins will send me your name and address and a four cent stamp to pay postage I will send you a sample rose and bud, also leaves. I hope you will try to make the beautiful rose."

ROSA ROBERTS, Grayson, Texas.

Now let us shake hands with our Western cousin John Hartz, and join him in a visit to his home.

"Now, dear reader, let me take you to visit my home, which is in the south-eastern part of Iowa. Coming from the east we will first cross the Mississippi river on the great Rock Island bridge, which has cost our Government more than three million dollars. Then, going westward, we cross very fertile plains, green with corn, oats, wheat, barley, etc. After traveling about one hundred miles the conductor will be calling out 'Victor', which is my stopping place. The first thing to be seen of Victor is a large hotel, and a still larger saloon; but as all the saloons in our county were closed this spring there is no danger of getting to be drunkard in Victor. But the carriage is waiting for us so we will drive to my home, which is about five miles south of the town.

"If you had come thirty years earlier you would not have found any cultivated land, for at that time this country was only a rolling prairie; but now there is hardly an acre of uncultivated land, and land now sells for about forty-eight dollars per acre. In the winter there are several feet of snow on the ground, but in the summer it is very warm and the roads are very smooth. The climate is healthy but it is not as mild as the eastern or most western states. But the people here are as well educated as those in the eastern states. The principal occupation of the people in this section is stock raising and grain growing. Corn is the grain most extensively raised; next come oats, wheat, rye, barley and potatoes. Fruit does very well here and timothy hay is often thrashed for seed. Horses, cattle, hogs, sheep and poultry is the stock which is mostly raised. I would like to take my cousins on a wild duck or geese hunt, but I am afraid our Auntie is getting impatient with me, so good-by for this time."

JOHN B. HARTZ, Victor, Iowa.

I have a letter from Dollie Simmons of Walker, Oregon, describing an Indian dance, but as I have lately published a very similar account I must content myself with thanking her for it and ask her to try us again with a different topic.

Here is a letter from a lonely little German cousin.

"As a new cousin in the *COMFORT* circle I hope you will accept this letter and give me a chance to get acquainted with the cousins. I live away out in the State of Washington on a farm in Lincoln county. We have fine scenery in view—mountains, rivers, waterfalls, lawns and forests. In the river bottom lands are fine orchards and on the hills great wheat fields. One ought to be happy here, but though I have my parents, my brothers and my music I have no sister and no girl friend, and sometimes I am lonely for want of one. After work is done girls want other girls to chat with. Folks tell me there are lots of girls in the eastern States. I would like to know and write to some of them. I am a German girl. Are any of the cousins German, I wonder?"

MATILDA JENNE, Rocklyn, Washington.

I have a very well written letter from a little girl of fourteen years, who signs herself Viola Bagley. But, Viola dear, if you expect your letters to be published you must write only on one side of your paper.

Here is still another letter which reached me too late for July.

"Among all the people who have felt their hearts swell with patriotism as they have looked at the old Liberty Bell scarcely one in a thousand has any knowledge of its history beyond the bare fact that it was rung on July 4th, 1776, to let the waiting people know that the Declaration of Independence had been signed and we had become a free people.

"In 1751, when the State House being built in Philadelphia was nearing completion, the 'Representatives of the Province of Pennsylvania' met together and appointed Isaac Norris, Thomas Leech and Edward Warner a committee to secure a bell for the building. These men then authorized Robert Charles, the Colonial agent in London, to have a bell made which should cost about a hundred pounds sterling, should weigh about two thousand pounds, and have inscribed on one side the words 'By Order of the Assembly of the Province of Pennsylvania, for the State House in the City of Philadelphia, 1752.' and on the other was to be the quotation 'Proclaim liberty throughout all the land, to all the inhabitants thereof'. Leviticus XXV. 10."

"In August, 1752, the bell arrived and was hung in its place, but when tested, it cracked with the first stroke. An effort was made to send it back to London to be re-cast, but the only boat available was too small. After much discussion the firm of Passo Stow of Philadelphia, offered to re-cast it. The first trial resulted in failure, but the second was successful, and in June 1753, the bell was finally hung.

"In 1777, when the British were approaching Philadelphia, the bell was taken down and removed to Allentown to save it from the enemy. In 1781 it was hung in the tower of the State House where it remained until it cracked while being tolled to announce the death of the Chief Justice, John Marshall, on July 6th, 1835.

"After a time the clapper was removed from the bell and it was mounted on the original framework and placed in Independence Hall, where it now stands."

EVA GALLIARD, Girard, Penn.

We are glad to welcome Mabel Horton among us and we shall listen with interest to her account of Hiwassee College.

"Hiwassee College is situated in a picturesque

valley lying between the Southern and Atlanta, Knoxville and Northern railroads, two miles from Madisonville. It was founded in 1849 by Robt Doak and others, and a charter was obtained in 1850. At first the school was taught at Bat Creek camp-ground with the church for a school house and the camps used as dormitories for the young men, but soon after a nice brick house known as the Doak building was erected, and now six fine buildings grace the College grounds.

"Hiwassee College has long been known as a noted institution of learning, boys from perhaps every state in the Union having attended school there, and have left her halls well prepared to fight the battles of life, and have become prosperous, influential, and wealthy men.

Rev. J. H. Brunner D. D., who retired as President of this College not long ago, was said to be the oldest College President in Tennessee and perhaps the oldest in the United States.

"The school is still in a prosperous condition, and a grand time is expected when the celebration of the semi-centennial occurs. Many old students will no doubt come at that time to visit their 'Alma Mater.'

MABEL HORTON, Madisonville, Tenn.

This letter gives us a pleasant account of the objects usually seen by the visitor to New Orleans.

"I recently took a trip to the grand old city of New Orleans. As I passed up Canal street, the principal business street of the city, the first object to attract my attention was the monument to Henry Clay. The Esplanade car carried me past fine residences, and from the car window I also saw the United States Mint. This is a three storied building with an entrance somewhat resembling that of the White House at Washington. Audubon Park is one of the prettiest parks I have ever seen. The great live-oak which spreads its branches over the artificial lake, and the rustic bridge suspended across the water make a very picturesque scene.

"Of the churches the most interesting are the Jesuit church with its brass altars and its statue, and the St. Louis Cathedral. The Jackson Monument in Jackson Square, opposite this Cathedral, was erected in honor of Gen. Andrew Jackson, the hero of New Orleans. We visited Metairie cemetery. Among its most noted monuments and tombs is the Armory Northern Virginia Monument, which is most beautiful, standing high upon a mound of closely mown grass. Near by is a tomb built to resemble an Egyptian pyramid. St. Louis cemetery is one of the most unique in America, the vaults being made in the walls; thus the walls present the appearance of a huge cabinet having hundreds of drawers. In St. Roch's cemetery, at intervals along the walks leading up to the chapels, are small summer pavilions in which are the



WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.

THE newest embroidered table linens are linen exclusively. They are worked with a linen floss, and are all white. The effect is especially good. Of course they launder perfectly, and the design seems a part of the fabric instead of an applied decoration, although it is heavily raised. With women who like rich effects without any appearance of ostentation, this style of embroidery is bound to prove a favorite. The designs are the same as those used in silk embroidery, with preference given to small and dainty patterns rather than broad effects. The linen used for the work is lustrous and rather heavy.

A novelty in collar-button boxes may easily be made from a discarded collar. Cut enough from the ends of the collar to leave it twelve and one-half inches long. Cover the collar with striped percale of a pattern suitable for a shirt waist. The work will be most readily and neatly done by means of a good paste. After the collar is covered, draw the ends together and catch with a few stitches at the bottom, lapping as much as it would be lapped in wearing. For the bottom of the box cut a round piece of pasteboard of the right size, cover it with the percale, and overhand the edge to the bottom edge of the collar. Cut a strip of cardboard not quite as wide as the depth of the collar and slip inside to form a foundation for the lid of the box to rest upon. Cut from paste board a lid which will just slip inside the collar when covered. Cover this with the percale, and with a sharp knife make a slit in the middle just large enough to push the top of a collar button through. The lid rests upon the cardboard inside the collar, and the top of the collar button will form a handle to lift it by. To complete the box, tie a narrow black ribbon around it to simulate a string tie, and make the bow where the corners of the collar lap.

No v that baby ribbon is used upon so many pieces of lingerie, and in various ways about the young girl's toilet, a case of baby ribbon makes a most acceptable addition to the dressing table.

The outside of the case may be of linen or silk as preferred. The silks in dainty Dresden designs or in the richer Persian patterns are especially pretty for the purpose. Make the case five and one-half inches wide and nine inches long, and line with a plain shade of silk to correspond or contrast well with the cover. Run three sides, turn, put in a sheet of wadding, and overhand the remaining side. Lay a piece of satin ribbon eight inches long and from one-half to three-fourths of an inch wide, across the inside of the case and catch it down to the lining and wadding at intervals of about an inch. At one end catch it again leaving a space only large enough to hold a tape needle. Now through the one-inch spaces draw bunches of baby ribbon, and place the tape needle in the narrow space.

Finish the case with a piece of plain ribbon of sufficient length to tie around the case when rolled or folded and to make a pretty bow. The baby ribbon inside the case may be of a variety of shades, or in a single color.

Comparatively few people are systematic with their correspondence, and anything which will prove an aid toward that end should be welcome.

The dainty little record book which I am going to describe would scarcely be needed by the friend whom I recently found writing a letter.

"I am answering a letter which just came in the mail," she said. "I always answer a letter as soon as it comes, within fifteen minutes if I can have the time then."

It certainly is easier to write a letter just after reading one from a friend, but I fear very few of us do it, and hence the value of the record book. This consists simply of one or two sheets of note paper ruled into three spaces extending up and down the page. The first space is broad and leaves room to write the name of the one from whom the letter is received. The second and third spaces are narrow, giving room only for a date. Over the broad space is printed in pretty lettering the one word "From;" over the second space the abbreviation, "Rec'd." and over the third, "Ans'd."



RECORD OF LETTERS.

If this is filled as letters come and go, one's correspondence will be systematically looked after, and the one who keeps such a record will be much more likely to answer half-forgotten letters when her remissness is thus brought to mind. The record is made attractive by means of the cover which is as unique

as it is pretty, and because of this pretty cover the whole can be used as an inexpensive gift. To make the cover take a piece of water color paper, or other paper with a somewhat rough and artistic looking surface, and cut a folded piece which will be a little larger than the sheets of note paper which are to be fastened within it.

On the middle of the front of this cover draw a group of over-lapping envelopes with pen and ink. The top envelope should show the back, as though addressed, and the post-mark, from some letter received could be copied as exactly as possible. Paint a semblance to a stamp in the right hand upper corner, or if you cannot do this paste a cancelled stamp there. Address the envelope to the person for whom the record is intended. Around the cluster of envelopes a design may be drawn or painted. One which was given away at Christmas time had a wreath of holly with its red berries, but any other design could be used as well, or if one does not paint, the pen and ink work on the envelopes would be sufficient decoration. When the cover is finished two holes should be made through both cover and note paper at the back, and a pretty ribbon drawn through and tied.

A dainty little button bag which takes up the smallest possible amount of space in one's valise, and which is sure to prove of the greatest convenience, is made from a piece of ribbon three and three-fourths inches wide and twelve inches long.

Cut the ribbon in two and hem one end of each piece over whalebone cut just the length to reach across the ribbon. Lay the two pieces of ribbon together and overhand the two sides, leaving an opening upon one side three inches from the top, or unfinished end, one-half an inch long. Hem the upper end to form a narrow casing. Next run two seams across the ribbon, even with the top and bottom of the half-inch opening at the side, to form a narrow pocket. Cut a card of pasteboard to fit into this pocket and cover it with silk. This is to hold a few needles. At one end add a small loop of baby ribbon to draw it out by, and run baby ribbon in the casing at the top. The upper pocket, between the casing and the needle pocket, is for one or two spools of thread, or for cards of thread which have been wound from a greater number of spools. Below the needle pocket is the space for buttons. This section opens by pressing the two sides together at the bottom, thus causing the whalebone to spring apart. When released the pocket closes again securely.

The new ribbons which are striped across are especially pretty for such a case.

A case for your knitting needles is very convenient, as it will hold them when not in use, and when wanted you do not have to hunt in boxes and drawers for "those needles." To make the case use white and yellow dress braid. Cut four pieces of the white and two of the yellow, twelve inches long; sew two of white and one of yellow, having yellow in middle, over and over, leaving one and one-fourth inch on each end not sewed. For the front piece

feather stitch, as in illustration, yellow floss on white, white floss on yellow braid; sew the three strips for back together, leaving one and one-fourth inches on bottom not sewed. At top of back make a hem across and slip in this hem small whalebone to keep straight. Ravel the top of front piece, turn fringe over onto outside, lay the two pieces together and button hole outside edge together with very short stitches a little way apart; gather the bottom where you stopped sewing the braids, ravel out all below and tie a narrow ribbon around it. Put enough cotton in bottom to fill; this keeps the needles from slipping through. Then cut of white cardboard a strip wide enough to slip in and so it will come just below the opening; this keeps it out in good shape; fasten a ring on top to hang by and over this a piece a yellow bow.

One of our good friends, who has given us friendly advice before, tells us now how to shrink yarn before knitting it.

"Place the yarn in clean white cloth, fold and place in steamer, and steam until damp; be sure that water and everything used is free from dust. Take out and lay loosely on cloth to dry. This is especially nice for any yarn used for baby, as it will have to be washed so often, and it does not shrink and mat as it does when it is not shrunk before knitting."

She further says:

"In knitting the toe of stockings a good plan is to knit silk thread with the wool, beginning at the taking in of the toe; do the same with the heel and it for a child the part that comes over the knee, as it adds greatly to the strength of those parts. Knitting silk may be used, but sewing silk makes it less thick and is equally strong. Match the color or use black; it goes well with most yarns."

A Chance to Make Money.

I have berries, grapes and peaches a year old, fresh as when picked. I used the California Cold Process. Do not heat or seal the fruit, just put it up cold, keeps perfectly fresh, and costs almost nothing; can put up a bushel in ten minutes. Last year I sold directions to over 120 families in one week; any one will pay a dollar for directions when they see the beautiful samples of fruit. As there are many people poor like myself, I consider it my duty to give my experience to such and feel confident anyone can make one or two hundred dollars round home in a few days. I will mail sample of fruit and full directions to any of your readers for nineteen (19) two cent stamps, which is only the actual cost of the samples, postage, etc. Particulars free. Mrs. M. BAIRD, 3453 Lacledge Ave., St. Louis, Mo.

GIRLS, HOW'S THIS?

We give free a Beautiful Rolled Gold Puritan Rose Diamond Ring—Tiffany setting—for selling 20 five-cent packages Garfield Pure Pepian Gum among friends. Catalog 200 other premiums free. Send us your name. We send gum at once. Garfield Gum Co., 71, Meadville, Pa.

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PLACES TO VISIT IN PARIS.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



SIDE from the Exposition few cities can offer more attractions than the capital of France, and we would call attention to some facts concerning a few of the most interesting features.

The "Arc de Triomphe de l'Etoile" is the largest arch in existence, measuring one hundred and sixty feet in height, one hundred and forty-six feet in width and seventy-two in depth. It was begun by Napoleon I. and was finished by Louis Philippe.

The "Musée de Cluny" was built in 1900 as a Paris residence for the wealthy Benedictine monks. These abbots of Cluny seldom resided here so loaned their building to members of the royal family.

Mary, widow of Louis XII. inhabited it after the death of her husband and her bed-chamber is still called "Chambre de la Reine Blanche" as it was customary for queens of France to wear white mourning. In 1625 nuns from Port Royal took possession of it. At one time it was owned by a troop of comedians. In revolutionary times it was national property. It was afterward purchased privately and finally became property of the government.

The Palace of the Luxembourg was built by Marie de Medicis after the model of a Florentine Palace. Part of this building the Senate now occupies and the rest is a museum of paintings and statuary second only to those exhibited in the Louvre.

The Louvre is the largest and most important building in Paris. Its origin is uncertain but it was probably erected about 1217, though no part of this building remains. Catherine de Medicis constructed a large part of the present building. A short distance from The Louvre is the Palais Royal. It was erected in 1136 by Richelieu and afterwards fell into possession of Anne of Austria, who occupied it with her two sons. It was partially burned in 1871. In the gardens surrounding the Palais during the summer, concerts are given daily. Adjoining the Louvre also is all that remains of the Palais Des Tuilleries.

The "Ecole Militaire" is the scene of Captain Dreyfus' humiliation before he was taken to the Ile du Diable.

"Colonne De Juillet" was erected in 1831 on the site of the Bastille. The largest market place in Paris is Halles Centrales, covering an area of twenty-two acres.

The Bourse is the Parisian's stock exchange. The Catacombs, formerly quarries, contain the remains of nearly four million human beings, whose bones form altars, crosses, etc.

The students part of the city known as the Latin Quarter is well worth visiting, where St. Michael reigns as patron saint.

SELF HOME TREATMENT FOR LADIES.

I will send free, with full instructions, some of this simple preparation for the cure of Leucorrhœa, Ulceration, Displacement and all female diseases, to all ladies sending address. I have nothing to sell. Tell other sufferers of it—that is all I ask.

Mrs. M. SUMMERS, Box 206, Notre Dame, Ind.

3 ELGIN **A \$2500 Watch**
In appearance. The handsomest genuine gold plated watch on the market. Double hunting case. SOLID GOLD PATTERN engraved. Elegantly finished jewel movement, stem wind and set and absolutely guaranteed for 5 YEARS.
Put this out and send it to write your name and address and we will send the watch to you by express for examination; you examine it at the express office and if you are satisfied pay express and our special introductory price \$50 and it is yours. Only one watch to each customer at this price. Mention in your letter whether you want GENT'S OR LADY'S
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LADIES. Make your own toilet preparations, 10 cts. and 2c. stamp pays for any recipe you want. American Formula & Recipe Bureau, Lock Box 3761, Boston, Mass.

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If sick send a lock of your hair, name, age, sex and 4 cts. in stamps and I will diagnose your case FREE and tell you what will cure your ailments. Address Dr. J. C. Batdorf, Dept. 15, Grand Rapids, Mich.

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RIPANS TABULES
DOCTORS FIND
A Good Prescription for Mankind.

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A Hot Weather Comfort.
THE NEW
PETITE LAMP CHIMNEY STOVE.

THIS is a very useful device (made of brass) for adjusting on the top of an ordinary lamp chimney, for cooking purposes. It is readily adjustable to any chimney. It will readily support any ordinary metal plate, or pan, or dipper, in which to do the boiling or cooking. For many purposes this Lamp Chimney Stove is far superior and a thousand times more convenient than an expensive oil or vapor stove. For the Dining Room in Summer, shops and offices, it is unsurpassed. For the Bed Room it is indispensable.

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10 cents each, carefully boxed, and postage paid. Or 20 for a dollar, which is just 5 cents each, and delivered free, either by mail or express, to agents. You only need sell four out of your 20, to get your money back. All you sell of the other sixteen, will be clear gain to you. You cannot do better than invest a dollar.

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This paper 3 months on trial and sample stove only 10 cents.
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SUNSHINE, Augusta, Maine.

\$500 FREE BRIGHT PEOPLE

WEN SEARY	NOTICEDORA YAD	GIVGINSNAKTH YAD
WASHTONING'S DAYTHBRI	YULI THOURF	SSTHRMCAI

Can you arrange these six different groups of letters into the names of six (6) well-known and popular holidays? If so you can share in the distribution of the above. We propose to give away \$500 in Gold to those who answer this question correctly. REMEMBER we do not want one cent of your money when you answer this question. In making the six names the letters can be used in their own groups as well as mixed together. If you appear in each individual group and no letter can be used which does not appear in its own group. After you have made the six groups and formed the six correct names, write them out plainly and you will receive a cash prize of \$500. It is not a contest of luck or chance, brains and earnest effort will win, as we shall give away the \$500 in Cash. Address: WOOD PUBLISHING CO., Dept. 67, 256 Franklin St., BOSTON, MASS.

A Big Lot of Real Silk and Plush Also Stamped Satin
REMNANTS
FOR CRAZY PATCHWORK.

ART in needle work is on the advance. We know the ladies delight in pieces of silk and satin—"CRAZY QUILT" making is again very popular. We are sure we have a bargain that all ladies will now delight in. At NECKTIE FACTORY: the styles were never so bright and pretty as they are now; and they are now thousands of pieces of silk and satin. RICH GOODS: we have thousands of pieces of silk and satin on hand which we are going to sell at a very low price. People at a distance have hard times getting the right assortment to put into sofa-pillows, quilts, etc. and we can help you out now. We are going to dispose of this immense lot **RIGHT OFF**. Our packages contain from 90 to 168 pieces of the best quality assorted goods, and we want to get a lot interested into every home; then you can order as you like for your friends and neighbors. We will sell at a very low price. **Grand Offer:** If you order our great assorted lot at 25c. it would cost many dollars bought at a store. **With** you save a rich, bright and beautiful **stamped satin** pieces each piece is 36 square inches and being stamped by hand with a graceful design for embroidery, is a great bargain.

Five Skeins Embroidery Silks Free. In order to work your stamped satin and other pieces we also send absolutely **FREE**, five skeins of elegant embroidery silk, all different colors. This is worth nearly the price we ask for the remnants; but we know if you buy the lot at 25c. it would cost many in your locality, so make this liberal offer besides giving you a large and elegant piece of **Plush** containing 36 square inches.

BEST WAY. We send out of the above complete assortments for \$500 to all who send 25 cents for 6 months' subscription to "COMFORT" the best Home Monthly now published, to your friends and neighbors we will send free with each package for other ornaments, work, etc. Fancy stitched **Illustrations**, for ornamenting the seams of **Crazy Patchwork**, for other ornaments, work, etc. **How to join pieces, etc.** **EMBROIDERY STITCHES**, comprising the **Outline** and **Kensington Painting**.

Remember we send one big lot (over 100 pieces) **5 Skeins Embroidery**, the assortments stamped satin pieces, **5 Skeins Embroidery** for patchwork together with a 6 months' subscription to "COMFORT," all for only 25 cents. **36 square inches** **plush**, and a great 15c. book on embroidery together with a 6 months' subscription to "COMFORT," all for only 25 cents. **Three lots and one year's subscription, 60 cents; five lots \$1.00.** Address: **COMFORT**, Silk Dept. B, Augusta, Maine.



CONDUCTED BY AUNT SARAH.



BREAD being a necessity to all sorts and conditions of men, and the making of good bread being an accomplishment not so common among housewives as one would think—a few general hints on the art may be of considerable help to all those who wish to know how to make bread, and to feel that their method is a reliable one. There are so many people who can make good bread almost always, and yet once in a while, for apparently no reason under the sun, their bread will be a disgrace to them. The greatest difficulty, of course, is in its turning sour; except in hot weather, there is no excuse for sour bread; sometimes, when the weather is very warm, before one can get it to knead and get it to rising, it will be well on into the forenoon, and then the bread will have a sour odor and flavor; for this reason it is well, in the very hot weather, to get up a little earlier in the morning and knead the bread and get it into the pans to rise, before breakfast, when the morning is still cool and the fire in the range has not made the temperature of the kitchen unbearable. No wonder the bread sours, and yet, bread we must have, and it is just at this critical time that we have to make it often, on account of its getting mouldy if kept too long.

The following recipe gives two loaves, of ordinary size.

WHEAT BREAD.

To two cups scalded milk or boiled water, add two tablespoons salt, and when lukewarm add one yeast cake which has been dissolved in half cup of water, boiled and cooled. With a knife, cut and mix in enough flour, sifted, to make a stiff dough—usually about seven cups. Knead until the dough is elastic, then cover and set to rise in a temperature of 70 degrees. When the dough has doubled its bulk, cut down and knead slightly without removing from the dish. When again double its bulk, shape into two loaves and set to rise in buttered pans. When it has risen the third time, put into the oven and bake one hour.

RICE BREAD.

To two cups scalded milk or boiled water, add three-fourths of a cup of rice, cooked until tender and while still hot add two tablespoons butter; then proceed as in first recipe. Oatmeal may be used instead of the rice, if desired.

BROWN BREAD.

Sift together one cup each of corn meal, rye meal and entire wheat flour, one teaspoon salt and three teaspoons soda. Add three-fourths cup molasses and one pint sour milk. Steam in a covered mould for three and a half hours, being sure that the water comes up half way around the mould all the time.

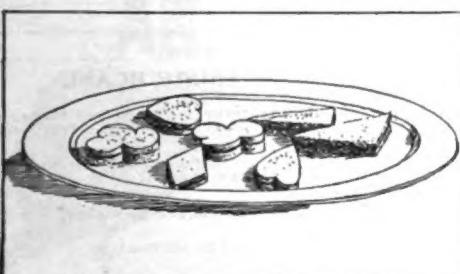
BAKING POWDER BISCUIT.

Sift four cups of flour two or three times, with one teaspoon salt, and, for each cup of flour, two level teaspoons baking-powder. Work into the flour one-third of a cup of butter, and when the mixture looks like meal, add gradually one pint of milk and mix well. When of a consistency to handle, turn out onto a floured board and roll into a sheet half an inch thick. Cut into rounds with a small biscuit cutter. Bake fifteen minutes.

To give rolls and bread a glossy brown crust, a short time before removing from the oven brush over the top of each loaf or roll with the beaten yolk of egg diluted with a little milk, or with a little sugar dissolved in milk.

This being the preserving season, some recipes a little out of the ordinary may be of interest to some of the good housewives who are always on the alert for new ideas.

Currants are always obtainable, and it often happens that one has a few currant bushes of her own from which to pick the delicious fruit, which is all the more interesting. Of course every one likes spiced fruit as a relish for meats,



FANCY SANDWICHES.

and we have a good recipe to offer for this—one for bottled currants which may be used in the same way and are much easier to do, as they are put up cold.

SPICED CurrANTS.

For seven pounds of currants, melt four pounds of sugar in one pint vinegar; add the currants and one tablespoon each of ground cinnamon and cloves and one teaspoon of allspice and a little nutmeg (if you like the flavor of nutmeg). Boil two hours and bottle.

For the bottled currants, mix together fine

granulated sugar and currants which have been stemmed, in the proportion of one and one-fourth pounds of sugar to one pound of currants. Then mash the fruit thoroughly and put into glass jars, sealing up as other preserves. Roll in paper and set in a dark, cool place, and when it is served it has the flavor of fresh fruit.

PRESERVED RHUBARB.

To each pound of rhubarb allow three-fourths of a pound of sugar. Make a syrup with the sugar and enough water to keep from burning; add rhubarb and cook until tender, keeping the pieces as whole as possible. Skim out the rhubarb and boil the syrup until thick; reheat the rhubarb and put into jars.

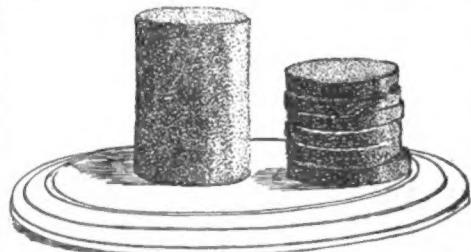
If one likes the rhubarb that is not quite so rich, the following recipe will be preferred: Cut the rhubarb the length of height of jars into which it is to be packed; after putting in the stalks, fill the cans with cold water and set into a boiler, putting covers onto cans loosely. Fill the boiler with cold water, and after it has been boiling an hour the rhubarb will be sufficiently cooked, when screw down the covers tightly.

To preserve strawberries whole, select the largest and most perfect berries. Mash the others and boil for fifteen minutes without water, then strain through a jelly bag. Allow one pound of sugar to each quart of strawberry juice. Make a syrup with a pint of water to each two pounds of sugar, and skim; pour in the juice of the berries and boil from five to ten minutes; pour the syrup into glass jars and then put in the whole berries, carefully, so as to keep them in perfect shape, putting in as many as the syrup will cover without crowding. When perfectly cold, cover with paper dipped in brandy.

CHILI SAUCE.

Remove the skins from a hundred ripe tomatoes; add twenty-four green peppers which have been finely chopped, eighteen large onions chopped fine, one pound brown sugar, nine large tablespoons salt, eighteen level teaspoons each of allspice, ginger and cloves, and one gallon vinegar; boil slowly, stirring often, for one hour. Seal in fruit jars.

If ginger is not liked, use only the cinnamon, allspice and cloves, and in the proportions



BOSTON BROWN BREAD.

liked; tastes differ, and many people prefer chili sauce to taste more strongly of the tomatoes than of the spices, and should therefore spice according to the individual taste.

More Fragrant Than the Rose.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.

UNCLE Sam is the world's greatest producer of onion seed today, the annual product being something well-nigh fabulous. Nor is this very surprising when it is considered that onions are raised more extensively than any other vegetable, with the possible exception of cabbages. An onion goes into every soup and every stew; every "made dish" practically has onion in it. Furthermore, onions are very easily grown, and correspondingly cheap to buy; many of them are eaten raw by the poorer classes.

Great quantities of onion seed are exported to Europe from the United States, and it appears that this is the oldest of all seed-growing industries in America, dating back nearly two centuries and a half in the State of Connecticut. The bulk of the crop is gathered in California, though some onion seed is grown in Connecticut, Michigan and the neighborhood of Philadelphia. It is harvested by hand, with scythe or hand-knife, and is cleaned by threshing machines. Onion seed from Connecticut and Michigan is considered the best, and fetches the highest price in the market.

CENTURIES ago such an animal as a rat was positively unknown in Europe. The Latin had no word for rat. But when the crusaders came back from the East, with them besides prisoners of war came the black rat, which was a very fierce little animal and very destructive.

During the time of Napoleon, Russia introduced with its armies the brown rat. This species was even more warlike than the black one and they soon began to fight and the black rat was finally almost exterminated. And now such a thing as a black rat is seldom heard of.

DISCOVERED BY A WOMAN.

I have discovered a positive cure for all female diseases and the piles. It never fails to cure any of the various diseases peculiar to women such as leucorrhœa, displacements, ulceration, granulation, etc., or the piles from any cause or in either sex. I will gladly mail a box of this wonderful medicine free to every sufferer. Mrs. C. B. MILLER, Box 106, Kokomo, Ind.

\$75 Month and Expenses; no experience needed; position permanent; self-seller, PEASE MFG. CO., Stat'n 32, Cincinnati, O.

Send 25cts. in stamps and we will send you the following:—1 Beautiful Gold Wire Bangal Ring with your initial on, same as cut (Send finger measurement.) Also the latest N. Y. craze, the Star Pendant Stick Pin, and two pieces of sheet music with elaborate title covers, The Governor's March (by E. S. Jolly, famous rag time composer), and Tell Her to Come to Me, by Chas. Graham, (composer of If the Waters Could Speak as they Flow). A wonderful offer. MILLS SUPPLY COMPANY, 46 West 29th St., New York City.



COMFORT.



CHINA DINNER SET FREE

FOR SELLING 15 POUNDS OF OUR QUEEN BAKING POWDER. Our productions are enormous. To every purchaser of 15 pounds of our Queen Baking Powder we give FREE a beautiful Royal Blue Pitcher and 8 Glasses to match. To the lady who sells 15 pounds cans Queen Baking Powder we will make a present of a handsome 50-piece Dinner Set full size tableware, handsomely decorated and gold traced. We also give Bicycles, Sewing Machines, Mackintoshes, Dress Skirts, Furniture, Musical Instruments, and hundreds of other valuable premiums for selling our groceries. We also give cash commission. Write us to-day and get our illustrated plans and premiums, it will pay you. No money required. We pay the freight and allow agents time to deliver goods before paying us for them.

AMERICAN SUPPLY CO., 119 and 121 Locust Street, Dept. 57, ST. LOUIS, MO.

HOME WORK 60 cents a sheet, copying. Send stamp. Wholesale Supply Co., South Bend, Ind.

10,000 ARE VERY ANXIOUS TO GET MARRIED Many rich. Big lists with pictures and addresses FREE. THE PILOT, 6, Station E, Chicago.

LARGE CIGAR Firm wants permanent Agents everywhere. Write to begin negotiations. Enclosed samples free. Address with stamp. C. BOE ED, CHICAGO.

YOUR FUTURE LIFE COMPLETE IN LOVE, MARRIAGE, BIRTH, DEATH, ETC. Send TIME OF BIRTH, SEX & LO. for Written Prediction. PROF. KENNEWICK, MEDFORD, MASS.

PILES Absolutely cured. Never to return. A boon to sufferers. Acts like Magic. Trial box MAILED FREE. Address, Dr. E. M. Botot, Box 978, Augusta, Me.

MONEY Given for selling our toilet soaps, or 150 premiums free. Write today for handsome illustrated Catalog. Great Northern Soap Works, 224 Lake St., Oak Park, Ill.

TRIAL Treatment DRINK HABIT cured secretly. Write for booklet on DRINK HABIT and its POSITIVE CURE. Mrs. May Hawkins, L. U. 181, Grand Rapids, Mich.

A CASE OF PERFUMERY FOR YOU. We have a great quantity of perfumery in cases which we wish to give to our friends without expense. It is most delicate and lasting and combines the various perfumes and fragrance of the flowers. Placed in a bureau drawer will impart delicious odor to all clothing, kerchiefs, etc. Sweeter than the mignonette. Send us four cents pay for shipping expenses and will send it with copy of our illustrated bargain book. S. W. LANE & CO., Augusta, Maine.



Each one of the above three lines of figures spells the name of a great city in the United States. This is a brand new puzzle and can be solved with a little study, as follows: There are twenty-six letters in the alphabet, and we have used figures in spelling the cities instead of letters. Letter A is number 1, B number 2, C number 3, etc., throughout the entire alphabet. **IF YOU CAN SPELL OUT THESE THREE CITIES YOU MAY SHARE IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF \$1,000 WHICH WE ARE GIVING AWAY** for doing a little work for us. This you can do in less than one hour of your time. This and other most liberal offers are made to introduce one of the very best New York magazines into every home in the United States and Canada. **WE DO NOT WANT ONE CENT OF YOUR MONEY.** When you have made out the names of these three cities, write them plainly on a postal card and send it to us, and you will hear from us promptly **BY RETURN MAIL.** It may take an entire evening to solve the three names, but **STICK TO IT AND TRY TO GET YOUR SHARE OF THE \$1,000.** A copy of this high-class **ONE DOLLAR MAGAZINE WILL BE SENT FREE** to everyone answering this advertisement. Do not delay. Send your answer in immediately. Address ROBINSON PUBLISHING CO., 24 North William Street, New York City.

The Victoria Stamping Outfit.

More Artistic Patterns for the Money than were ever Dreamed of.

It has been our special pleasure to select designs for this collection for our artistic friends. Illustration A shows a floral and ribbon design which can be used for almost anything the dainty worker has for use. The flowers are best executed in Kensington stitch, the ribbon may be either simple outline, outline filled in with feather, herring-bone or cat stitch, or, what is still more effective, the long and short stitch. Illustration B is a dainty little design for monograms or what-nots.

Note the sizes of the designs named below and the number of sheets of patterns in this outfit.

1 Very Handsome Centerpiece of Carnations, 17x17 inches. 1 Pretty Corner-piece of Pansies and Leaves, 6x6 inches. 1 Design of Strawberries and Leaves for Dolly, 6x6x6. 1 Design of Orchid and Leaves for Scarf Corner, 6x10. 1 Clover Design for Dolly. 1 Design for Baby's Bib, Rosebuds and word Baby, 4x4. 1 Design for Cheese Dolly, 3x4x6. 1 Design for Souvenir Case with Motto, 5x4x6. 1 Design for Shoe Bag, 5x10. 1 Design for Shaving Bag with Motto, 6x6. 4 Fruit Designs for Fruit Plate Dishes, 3x3x3. 1 Design for Carving Cloth, 11x15x5. 1 Design for Tumbler Dolly, 4x4. 1 Pretty Corner Design for Tea-cloth, Jewel Work, 9x9. 1 Design for Table Dolly, 8x8. 1 Design for Water Bottle Dolly, 6x6. 4 Designs for Butter Plate Dishes, 3x3x3. 1 Cut Work Design, 5x5. 1 Very Pretty Design for Corner, Battenberg Work, 7x7. 1 Design for Border with Corner, 5x16. 1 Floral Corner Geranium, 6x6x6. 1 Design Water Lily for Dolly.

The patterns are made of lined bond paper, and consist of 9 sheets of patterns, each sheet 14x22 inches in size. As good as can be made.

With each outfit we send full instructions for doing the stamping, and one piece of EUREKA COMPUND, enabling anyone to do permanent stamping, instantly, without heat or trouble. Your money back if you want it, but no one ever does.

A SPECIAL HOLIDAY OFFER TO EVERY LADY. If you will send us only 18 cents we will send you one outfit, all charges paid and make you a trial subscription to the largest, brightest and best illustrated monthly paper for 3 months, postpaid.

Address COMFORT Augusta, Maine.

THE EAGLE CLAW, A WONDERFUL INVENTION. IN THE WORLD FOR CATCHING FISH, ANIMALS, AND ALL MANNER OF GAME. A wonderful and most ingenious device. It is easy to set, suited to any bait, can be used anywhere, nothing CAN ESCAPE UNTIL RELEASED. Every fish, muskrat, or squirrel which bites at the bait is surely caught. Perfectly safe for children, will not rust. One bait will catch from 20 to 30 fish. Will spring in any position; in short, it is a grand triumph over the unsafe and uncertain common fish-hook. Highly recommended by the Tribune, World, Press, and the Turf, Field and Farm. The Ohio Farmer says: "The Eagle Claw is a very ingenious article. The best device for catching fish and game we ever saw. Safe, sure and convenient." No. 1 is for all ordinary fishing, the ladies' favorite. No. 2 is for general use, both large and small fish and game. We have sold thousands, and they have all given splendid satisfaction.

We will send a No. 1, Eagle Claw Hook and our splendid monthly paper six months on trial for only 30 cents; or send 50 cents and we will send the No. 12, Eagle Claw Hook and our paper on trial six months. Price, per dozen, by express, No. 1, \$2.25; No. 2, \$3.50.

Address SUNSHINE, Augusta, Maine.





TALKS WITH GIRLS.

CONDUCTED BY COUSIN MARION.

This is the last summer month, my dears, and I am sure you are all glad of it and will welcome the cool weather of autumn even if it does make you a little older than you were. As between two discomforts I think that hot weather is personally more disagreeable than old age. You haven't tried both yet but you will have done so by and by and will find I am right. However, I talk too much and must get to work.

The first on the list is Cousin Mary K., of South Heart, N. D., who asks if a girl of fifteen should wear a shirt waist and I answer yes; and also yes as to her dancing if she does not go to dances regularly as a young lady.

Lena, Brazil, Ind.—Forms of address on different occasions of meeting cannot be given. Say what your feelings prompt you to say, even if it is not the most elegant form.

Ruth, Fremont, Neb.—It is not impolite to refuse a man's arm, if you do it politely. (2) Better let moles alone. (3) If you don't believe in dancing say so, politely.

Belle, Mahaffey, Pa.—Men should not smoke in the presence of ladies, except with their permission. (2) Sunshine, exercise and dieting are the best remedies for muddy complexions.

Gretchen, Aspinwall, Va.—Yes, you may be as ladylike in a hammock as in the parlor. (2) It is correct to ask the young man to walk home with you from church, if he is talking to you after the service. You may also ask him to go with you to the orchard for fruit. (3) 10:30 is a good hour for the young man to leave, and you can tell him that is your hour.

House Leak, Montgomery, Okla.—Be careful about the young man your parents object to and forget the one who doesn't care for you. (2) You may go with a young man at night if he is all right.

Unknown, Nashville, Tenn.—There is no way of getting what you want except to advertise for it, and not much chance then.

Miss F., Mahaffey, Pa.—It is proper to ask a young man to dine with you. Yes, the man may take you home from church without taking you there, but it is not customary to do so from "entertainments."

Blue Eyes, Burr Oak, Mo.—An engaged man is under almost as many obligations as if he were married.

Inquirer, Norway Lake, Minn.—You will have to wait a little while and find out whether the young man loves you or your sister. They don't always know themselves at first.

Laura, Stillwater, Ok.—Sleeping car berths are comfortable for one person only, unless the other is a child. Wear a wrapper, not a nightgown. The porter will look after your comfort.

Delia Dell, Muscatine, Ia.—You must ask your men friends to call. (2) Don't write to men you do not know. (3) You should have asked the young man why he did not keep his engagement. (4) Don't marry before you are twenty-five. (5) Make your home attractive to people and they will come to see you.

Maud, Reed, Va.—You ask me nineteen questions and how can I ever answer that many if the others are to be answered? Please begin with one.

Black and Blue, Glade Spring, Va.—Unless properly introduced you should not receive the young man. (2) Don't speak to any kind of men you do not know. (3) If people are talking about you and your cousin, he should stop his attentions for propriety's sake. (4) Don't write to the young man your parents object to.

E. H., Gloversville, N. Y.—Wash your hands in oatmeal or corn meal and wear undressed kid gloves at your work and at night, and your hands will be soft.

Flirt, Nardin, O. T.—You are not sufficiently considerate of the young man's feelings. (2) Electric shocks at the touching of hands are dangerous things. (3) The color of the eyes does not make happy marriages. (4) They say girls should not whistle, but I don't know why. (5) Winking the eye at any one is exceedingly vulgar.

Whip-poor-will, Alexandria, N. Y.—If the young man is in every way worthy marry him and take the chances on your parents' forgiveness. But be sure he is worthy.

Maude and Idell, Amelia, La.—Ask all the questions you please, but only one or two at a time.

Girlie, Cheshire, Mass.—Home is a good place to stay of evenings. Make it pleasant for people to meet you there. (2) The lady speaks first. (3) Chaperones are not necessary. Follow the custom of the place.

Majorlaine, Jackson, Mich.—You could wear almost any color becomingly, but blues I think would be best. (2) Thank you for the pleasant messages you send.

Kate, Staplehurst, Neb.—Have as little as possible to do with a jealous disposition. (2) Yes, you may ask for friendship hearts.

K. B., Oshkosh, Wis.—I have some very silly cousins, but you are quite the silliest, not to know that it is sarcasm for the silliest when I tell a cousin that it is customary for ladies to accept as their friends the men who have insulted them. Do you think you could see through a millstone if there was a hole in it?

Daisy, Prospect, Pa.—"We won't go home till morning" is the usual rule of country parties. (2) A gentleman may call on Sunday night or remain after church.

Tearful, Santa Barbara, Cal.—All the chances are that if you marry the young man who drinks and plays the races you will always regret it. My advice to you is to wait five years, and by no means to elope.

Addie Williams, Karlkirk, Neb.—It is not advisable that Catholics and Protestants marry unless with a perfect understanding of all the requirements. As you are a Protestant and you are undecided between the two young men, you had better choose the one of your own religious belief, unless the other will agree to be married by a Protestant clergyman.

Scotty, San Diego, Cal.—Some very nice ladies drink beer in the presence of gentlemen, but it is better not to. (2) Give the minister your picture if he is serious in his intentions.

Blanche, Flat Rock, Ind.—Yes, you should marry if you love the man. If you are engaged to him kissing is permissible. (2) Engaged couples

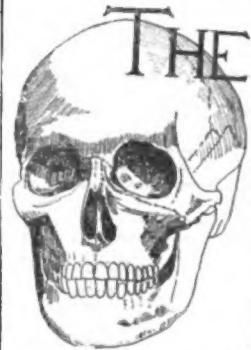
usually arrange the details you ask about to suit themselves.

E. A., Ash Grove, Mo.—The man writes first. (2) Ask your escort in if it is not later than ten o'clock. (3) Yes, young man may take you home from an entertainment where he has met you for the first time, if you have no other company.

There dears, all your questions are answered either directly or indirectly, or where you asked such questions as I have answered over and over again, and I shall stop with all sorts of good wishes until we meet again in September. The Lord be with you.

GRUESOME MERCANDISE.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



products of this character.

For \$14 as advertised, one may buy a skull and cross-bones, "beautifully white," the top of the cranium being separate and lined with gold-leaf. But for only \$2 more one can purchase a skull with luminous eyes, the sockets containing two miniature incandescent lamps. This is worked by an electric battery, the jaw being moved at will by concealed mechanism.

A "skeleton rider"—a human skeleton mounted astride of a rearing skeleton horse, on an oak pedestal—costs \$325. The right hand of the rider bears a long lance, and "special attention is given to the correct anatomical posing of this instructive group."

Cheaper, but still very desirable, is a Charlotte Corday, got up in a manner that would certainly have been most pleasing to the young lady if she had been able to see herself thus represented. It consists of a human skull shut behind the iron bars of a prison window of masonry, the skeleton hands clutching the bars as in the celebrated painting of the French heroine. It can be fastened to the wall and operated from a distance, the skull being made to nod at will, "Ghastly and effectively," the advertisement says, and presumably this does not overstate the fact. With a battery to work the mechanism, it costs only \$50.

Such elaborate contrivances as these are used almost exclusively by secret societies. Another one of the kind is a Flying Mercury—a male skeleton, "best quality," poised on one foot and bearing a torch in the raised arm. No support is visible, the figure appearing as if in full flight. The torch is practical, and can be arranged to give light.

Under the head of "human bric-a-brac" are included a number of articles of every-day use composed of people's bones which have been dispensed with by their former owners. There are canes made in part from thigh-bones, umbrella-handles for the "upper third of the humerus," and smoking sets, likewise "entirely osteological." A novel style of piano lamp is a complete skeleton, kneeling, supporting a handsome brass or silver-gilt apparatus. Carving sets and writing sets are likewise composed of various parts of human framework, and the non-superstitious persons may even buy three dice of like material for only \$4.

TO ACQUIRE GOOD HAIR.

Every man and woman should know how to acquire and retain a good head of hair. Many preparations for the cure of dandruff, falling hair and premature baldness are advertised but generally they have but a temporary effect. They are compounded without knowledge of the cause.

These troubles all come from a parasite in the roots of the hair. The cure and removal of this pest is accomplished by Cranitonic Hair Food, which not only preserves the hair and restores it to a natural color but feeds the growth and by killing the parasitical disease renders the scalp and hair healthy. The result is a new growth of strong, lusty hair. A small cake of shampoo soap for this purpose with directions will be sent paid to anyone writing to Cranitonic Hair Food Co., 526 West Broadway, New York City, if you will say you saw the offer in COMFORT.

SUMMER TIME

brings warm weather and cool dresses for ladies and young women. This year low neck and short sleeves will be the fashion, also necklaces of bead and pearl. We are ready in advance to furnish our customers and subscribers with our new Exposition Necklace, more popular than the Cyano chains were ever. We can send one, carefully packed, with a three months' subscription to COMFORT for 12c. Send soon and be in style.

Address, COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People

LEARN TO HYPNOTIZE!
Control whom you wish. Make others love and obey you. Cures diseases. Makes fun by the hour. New and instantaneous method. Quick as a flash. You can learn it. Success sure. Mammoth Illustrated LESSON and full particulars FREE! Send address at once. Prof. E. A. Harraden, - JACKSON, MICH.

A GRAND

Household Outfit FREE.



Any one can learn to repair their tinware in fifteen minutes with our new and improved Handy Soldering Set. This new Set has full directions how to work it to the best advantage and you can save enough in one day by using this Set to keep one in Boots and Shoes for six months. Everything necessary to repair all kinds of tinware or used to put up canned fruits etc., comes with this set and you will save a Set to you free, all charges paid, if you enclose 25c. for one yearly subscription. Address SUNSHINE, Augusta, Maine.



SEND YOUR SIZE and 10 cents to defray mailing, etc. and we will send, postpaid, one beautiful 18K Gold Pl. Ring, 20 Fine Silk Remnants, latest colors and designs, 1 yd. Silk Ribbon, Handsome Pearl Top Scarf Pin, Fancy Silvered Hair Pin, 2 Silvered Stands, Pictures and our bargain list of Jewelry and fancy goods. Entire lot, postpaid, 10 cents, Address: L. E. COGGINS, Box 31, Roselle, N. J.

AGENTS

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FREE Clairvoyance. If sick or ailing send now, name, age, sex, look of hair and 2 stamps to DR. D. Hinkley, X10, Grand Rapids, Mich.

Get Married 8,000 ladies—very anxious Many very beautiful and wealthy. Send 2 cts. for big list of ladies and gentlemen, with full description and residence. Satisfaction guaranteed. UNION CORRESPONDING CLUB, Box 608, AUSTIN, ILL.

HOW TO CURE RUPTURE

DEAR READER:—It gives me much pleasure and satisfaction to write this little story, for it contains a new and wonderful method of curing hernia or hernias and places before the afflicted words of hope and directions of great joy.

It is not my intention to use medical words or terms for the purpose of confusing those who are not familiar with them. I am sure this would not be more valuable for using those technical terms which some use, for the sole purpose of making some ignorant to believe they possess extraordinary knowledge. I am not going to describe the many ways one may become ruptured. In the many years I have treated ruptures I have had the good fortune to meet a thousand different things that caused my patients' affliction. That you are ruptured and that I can cure you, is the purpose for which this is written and it will surely be a blessing, coming unaware to those who follow its teachings.

There are several kinds of rupture and they are named according to their location, the most common being Scrotal, Umbilical (navel) and Femoral. They are again divided into two classes as reducible or irreducible. The reducible is one that can be reduced to a proper place within the abdomen. The irreducible is one that cannot be reduced.

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CONDUCTED BY REGULUS.



THE sun in its progress through the Zodiac passes the first point of the sign Libra, crossing the celestial equator at about twelve minutes past seven o'clock in the morning of the 23rd of September, this year, Washington time. This constitutes what is known as the Autumnal Equinox.

At that moment the middle degree of Libra will be on the eastern horizon and the 19th degree of Cancer will be culminating. The sun, moon and Mercury will be above the horizon in the 12th house; Jupiter and Herschel will be in the 2d house, Saturn in the 3d opposed to Neptune in the 9th, and Mars and Venus will be in the 10th. Venus being ruler of the ascending sign Libra, is ruler of the scheme. She is in the 10th house in sextile with the Ascendant. The indications of the figure are in the main good, though the continued prominence of Mars, the god of war, now in the 10th house, renews the promise of martial activity not as conducive to peace and harmony as could be wished. The warlike spirit is dominant and if it does not produce actual conflict of arms involving our nation it will cause more than usual lawlessness and violence of man to man. The great planetary bodies being inimically disposed with Neptune in the 9th house or the house of Religion, is indicative of great disturbances among religious sects or denominations. Neptune and Saturn that have been moving in opposition for many months while Jupiter and Herschel have been so closely conjoined, have excited the religious mind of the world. Much schism and discord have been created in established churches; new theories have been advanced, new doctrines born, unusual antagonism excited between religious sects, arousing the fanatical elements of religion in the world, which in the past has nearly always been attended with bloodshed and massacre. The Lunation or new moon which forms in the afternoon of the day of this Autumnal Equinox falls in close square with Saturn and Neptune and emphasizes the indications that this year 1900 will be a momentous epoch in the religious history of the world.

Mars so actively placed in the figures for both the Equinox and Lunation, for our own country, is a promise that our nation will not be exempt from tasting some of the mischievous effects of these planetary combinations. Our ruling authorities will have many knotty problems to solve, and cares of State will rest heavy upon their shoulders. Mars will keep up a state of excitement in our political world and we may reasonably look for some disorderly outbreaks of a political character, particularly in our southern localities. Mars being in the 10th cautions us also to have care of bad fevers and eruptive diseases in the south.

CELESTIAL CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER, 1900.

SEPTEMBER, 1.—Saturday. The noon hours are the best ones in this day for transaction of general business and especially for dealings with banks and other monied institutions, also for moderate purchases of merchandise for trade or use; the morning is not as favorable as the later hours and correspondence and matters of account are likely to give annoyances; don't take the morning for contract making pertaining to literary undertakings, and letter writing is best deferred until noontime. The latter hours of the day are decidedly adverse for any important venture, being likely to bring disappointment from any matter then begun. The day is not fortunate as a birthday anniversary, prompting great care and watchfulness of both health and circumstances for several months to come; especially is this true for persons born about the 1st days of March, June, September, or December of past years. The time for such persons is quite likely to bring realization of disappointment from earlier ventures and to baffle and defeat progress of matters in hand. Ladies, so born, are likely to be in the midst of domestic or family infelicities; and if married to be experiencing conjugal dissensions, sadness or bereavement in the marital relations or through male relatives; influences tend to cause discord among lovers having such birthdays if they do not really rupture engagements of ladies so born who have not yet assumed the matrimonial yoke.

2.—Sunday. A very favorable Sabbath day encouraging lofty sentiment, sober contemplation and reflection and effective religious discourse.

3.—Monday. Give preference to the early hours for the most important moves but as the noon is past do not expect much progress in thy several pursuits; have no bargains in houses or lands, nor be concerned with building or excavating; use the late evening and night hours for protracted mental efforts and conducting literary work of consequence.

4.—Tuesday. Begin early and crowd all thine affairs to the utmost; make application for favor or advantage from public men, large corporations and all persons in authority; as the evening draws nigh let more than usual care be had for avoidance of bad fires, especially in business localities; thieves will be unusually active.

5.—Wednesday. This day is poor for the literary and scientific pursuits as well as for artistic matters, music, painting, and trade in decorative wares; embarrassments are likely to come to editors, mathematicians, civil engineers, surveyors, lawyers and judges especially if born about the 23rd of February, 29th of May, or 26th of August, of past years.

6.—Thursday. Begin the day early and urge all undertakings of a scientific, literary or monetary nature

and press all general business until the late afternoon; seek favor from principal officers of large corporations, government officials, and bankers during the middle hours of the day.

7.—Friday. Use this day fully for buying or selling real estate or for having dealings with those engaged in the laborious occupations; deal in such commodities as coal, wood, lumber, agricultural products, lead and metallic ores; do not have any business transaction concerning patents, patented goods, copyrights or trademarks.

8.—Saturday. Let speculators remain quiet during this day if they wish to avoid entanglements and losses, and very important commercial transactions are best deferred a few hours; make no contracts and be very careful in the use of the pen; literary efforts are likely to be laborious and prove very unsatisfactory. The intellectual classes are in general under a ban for a few days and enterprises of such character now begun are not likely to be successful or profitable.

9.—Sunday. A very fair Sabbath day until the evening, especially conducive to mental activity and voluble and aggressive utterances.

10.—Monday. Improve the early morning hours for thy transactions in the fine arts and dealings in artistic and decorative goods; use the forenoon for dealings with public officers or managing authorities or superintendents in great corporations or upon large public works; solicit favor from railway officials and persons of prominence noted for eccentricity of conduct or habit. A word of caution is here noted for persons born about the 5th of January, 6th of June, 8th of July, or 6th of December, of past years, as such persons are just now passing some troublesome and exciting conditions; let them have care of getting in the way of harm from machinery, fire or vicious animals; they should be slow to anger and very deliberate in judgment and action and keep out of controversy and dispute to the best of their ability.

11.—Tuesday. A fructious morning inviting patience and cautioning against haste or excitement of mind; have no surgical operation performed; be prudent in diet, avoiding stimulants and intoxicants; have no transactions about drugs, chemicals, fire-arms, metals or machinery. Use the afternoon for real estate dealings and attending to plumbing, excavation, building and repairing houses.

12.—Wednesday. The middle hours are the best for most matters, though the day has but little to recommend it; literary and artistic matters are adversely affected in the forenoon; avoid the aged in the evening.

13.—Thursday. One of the best days of the month; urge all correspondence and literary matters generally; sign writings of all kinds; deal in metals, machinery, cattle, chemicals and drugs and press all the mechanical trades and inventions; scientific and literary men are favored greatly and the nice avocations will be successful; dealers in household goods and artistic manufactured wares are fortunately influenced and if their individual nativities likewise promise advantage they should enter upon their principal ventures in life.

14.—Friday. Look out for the pennies on this day, as conditions tend to wasteful expenditures and conduct in losses; urge the musical and artistic engagements and employ taste in all directions.

15.—Saturday. Conflicting conditions prevail on this day; give no offence to thy superior or employer nor seek advantage from persons in authority; do not begin any great commercial or literary undertaking.

16.—Sunday. Indifferent and passive; a good day for complete rest.

17.—Monday. Beware of very flattering promises in the schemes or enterprises presenting themselves on this day; watch the finances and be not extravagant in expenditures.

18.—Tuesday. Due caution being had against rashness of action or judgment, let all the energies be put forth for pursuit of business; the day is a peculiarly energetic and vigorous one and should be fully improved.

19.—Wednesday. Let the forenoon be specially improved for the pursuit of all general business, but particularly a1: the elegant occupations and the fine arts; deal in musical merchandise, dramatic appurtenances, dress goods, jewelry, etc.; the afternoon is less com-mended.

20.—Thursday. This day encourages association with the aged and the active pursuit of all general business, but preferences may be given to dealings in real estate, boots and shoes, dyes, wool, lead, coal, lumber, and all classes of building material.

21.—Friday. Avoid money speculations at this time and invest not thy means in goods for trade; keep the purse strings securely drawn and be watchful against needless expenditures.

22.—Saturday. Avoid thy landlord on this day; nor have any dealings with contractors, miners, farmers and persons engaged in the dirty avocations. Engage not in any important matter; no permanent advantage will result from undertakings commenced this day. If this is the anniversary of thy birthday or if born the 20th of March, 21st of June, or 22d of December, of past years, thou shouldst not be surprised that more than usual disappointment or tribulations come in thine affairs at about this time. Such persons should be temperate in habit and circumspect in all business transactions; let them particularly avoid the use of stimulants, too free living, indulgence in follies or needless expenditures; cramp and rheumatic trouble are to be guarded against; such persons engaged in business should see to it that they give no cause for business disputes, and doing the best they can, be content even though prosperity be not so great. They should not now begin any new or important undertaking if they would have it succeed or benefit themselves.

23.—Sunday. Not particularly promising for a Sabbath day; though the first half of the day is noted for its increased activity and vigor; avoid the aged in the afternoon.

24.—Monday. A bright and cheering day which Regulus commands to his friends for the beginning of any important ventures; seek money accommodations and speculate if thy nativity likewise favor in this respect; literary affairs are prospered and the elegant pursuits are aided; travel, remove, and crowd all under-takings.

25.—Tuesday. Do not speculate or loan thy money or credit; those subject to apoplectic troubles should have care at this time.

26.—Wednesday. Be master of thy temper in the morning hours nor have transactions with persons in the mechanical callings or who pursue their avocations by use of firearms, fire or sharp instruments; the day is a vigorous one and may be fully employed in every honorable pursuit.

27.—Thursday. Do not choose this for the wedding day or for courtship; engage in no pursuit of pleasure except in thine own house; art and music meet embarras-sment to-day; seek no redress for grievances from public officials or persons in authority.

28.—Friday. Give preference on this day to the transaction of business with dealers in hardware, cutlery, metals, glassware, brass and iron work, chemicals and electrical apparatus, also with persons in the ingenious and mechanical trades.

29.—Saturday. Conditions are somewhat conflicting though in general the day is a good one for all honorable pursuits; beware of usurers and avoid dealings with public men or government officials.

30.—Sunday. A superior day for improvement of the mind and proper appreciation of the merits of artistic

\$25,000 GUESSING CONTEST.

Open to All. 1000 Free Prizes. Brains Win.

THE COLUMBIAN

We want to get the names of 600,000 people to whom we can send sample copies of our interesting illustrated weekly and story magazine, THE COLUMBIAN. We are confident that at least half of them, 250,000, will be so interested in its stories, special articles, jokes, pictures, etc., that they will become Regular Readers. The only way we can get these 600,000 names is to advertise, and when the papers are so full of advertisements of all kinds, we know that to attract attention, we must make some especially attractive and startling announcement. So we offer you a chance to win the \$25,000, which will be divided into 1,000 prizes, as shown below, and paid to those who make the best guesses at the population of the United States, as shown by the Official Government Census Figures.

FULL \$25,000 ALREADY IN THE BANK.

This money will positively be paid. You may be sure of that. In order that you may have no fear on that point, the entire sum of \$25,000 has been deposited in the bank by the Press Publishing Co., for the express purpose of paying these prizes, and will be used for no other purpose. \$25,000 is a big sum, but we can well afford to pay every cent it costs us if half the people who enter this contest become regular readers of our magazine, THE COLUMBIAN, and we expect at least that many.

REMEMBER: You can enter the contest whether you subscribe to our magazine or not.

Everyone who reads this has a chance to win the magnificent FIRST PRIZE OF \$15,000.

If you miss this year, get the SECOND PRIZE OF \$5,000; or the THIRD PRIZE OF \$1,000, or some one of 997 other CASH PRIZES which make up the grand total of \$25,000 to be paid to the winners.

We know this great offer will make people talk about our magazine.

The \$25,000 will be divided as follows:

To the Best Guess... \$15,000	To the 7th.... 100	To the 14th..... 35	To next 180..... 900
To the 2nd..... 6,000	To the 8th.... 90	To the 15th..... 30	To next 100..... 400
To the 3rd..... 1,000	To the 9th.... 80	To the 16th..... 25	To next 100..... 250
To the 4th..... 500	To the 10th.... 75	To the 17th..... 20	To next 200..... 400
To the 5th..... 300	To the 11th.... 60	To the 18th..... 15	To next 400..... 400
To the 6th..... 200	To the 12th.... 50	To the 19th..... 15	Total 1,000..... 25,000
	To the 13th.... 40	To the 20th..... 15	prizes, \$25,000

SPECIAL NOTICE. It may help you to know that the official census figures for the last five decades have been: 1850, 23,191,876; 1860, 31,443,321; 1870, 39,568,871; 1880, 50,155,783; 1890, 62,622,250. DO NOT include in your guess the population of Hawaii, Guam, Porto Rico, the Philippines or Cuba. In case of a tie for any prize, it will be equally divided.

DO NOT SEND US ANY MONEY WITH YOUR GUESS.

OPEN TO ALL. This contest is open to every person who will just send us their name and address and send their guess with the population of the United States.

government returns of the census of 1900, and comply with our one simple condition as we will write you by return mail. You know that the government takes this census every ten years. This contest will close one month before the official announcement is made, which will not be before November, so you must send in your guess at once, and the winners of these prizes amounting to \$25,000 will be announced as soon as possible after that date. You do not have to pay a cent of your money to enter this contest. There is no possibility of deception or fraud in this contest as every one will know just what their guess was and will also know just what the official figures will be. Lists of the winners will also be printed in the papers with the guesses they made so that every one can see for themselves just what persons and what guesses win the money. Try your luck! Think what success means! A fortune! Address:

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work and the elegant in literature; the evening is less propitious and will give disappointments and disagreeable experiences with aged persons.

EVERY DAY IN THE YEAR

a man carries his keys about in his pocket, 365 chances every year to lose them never to recover them if his name is not attached in some way. A substantial steel ring with an ivory marker is a new idea. With ordinary ink your name, address, etc., can be written on the ivory tag and your keys returned to you if lost. Only a cent quantity of 4c. each. Good discount to agents and street men. Address LANE & CO., Augusta, Maine.

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When I say I cure Cancer, I do not mean merely to cure them for a time and then have them return again; I mean a permanent cure. I have cured the worst cases—those that were called hopeless. I cure Cancer without the aid of the surgeon's knife, and in a soothing and painless manner. Because others have failed is no reason why you should endanger your life by this malignant affliction. Send at once FREE for full treatise and letter of advice

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Buckets of fun.

What Are the Chinese Boxers?

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



CHINESE FOREIGN OFFICE.

HE above question is asked on all sides now that the name is so frequently in public print; and while there is a general idea that these are Chinese rebels, very few people can really tell what is meant by the name and the origin of this most formidable organization

which has caused the present fanatical uprising against all Christian people, and is leading to an unprecedented massacre of white people, and which seems to be the beginning of a general war that will bring about the final dismemberment of the Chinese Empire.

The Chinese government could undoubtedly stamp out such a movement, as it has done in former times; but the great game of politics enters into the present movement to a greater degree than has ever appeared in any movement against foreigners. The Empress desires to restore the ancient forms and prestige of the throne and to expel all foreigners; but she realizes the great danger that there is in attempting to stop the Russian movement on the North. She dares not fight with that country, and yet knows that with the protection of Russia she can defy Germany, England and France on the coast line. The Boxers are especially bitter against the foreign missionaries of both the Catholic and Protestant churches, and they are encouraged by the Buddhists and their priests. The foreigner, viewed from the Chinese standpoint, is nothing but barbarian and incapable of entering into his ideas of civilization. Every encouragement is given throughout the entire empire to increase the hatred of all foreigners, and this has been going on for years until the Chinese population is a seething mass of hatred and desire for vengeance.

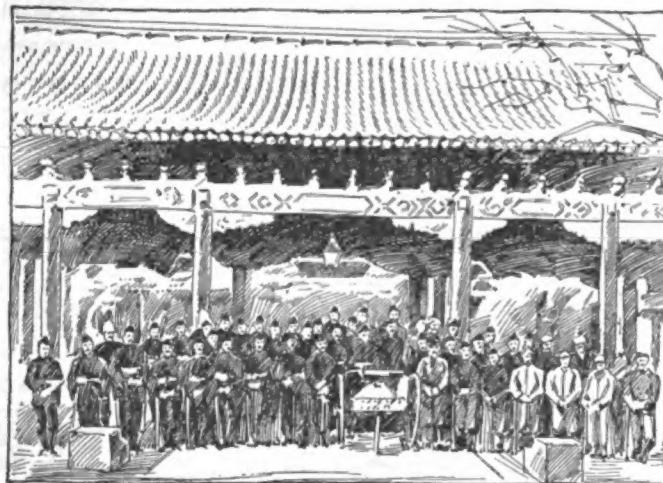
The conservative spirit of China has, until recently, prevented the building of railroads, and there were only five hundred miles in operation last year; so that the entire carriage of merchandise in this vast empire, the central part of which is equal to half the United States in territory, was done by water ways and the labor of coolies. Tens of thousands of junks and other Chinese boats of light draught distribute foreign and domestic commerce through the water ways of the empire. At the highest points of navigation these in turn are taken by coolies and either carried in packages slung at two ends of a bamboo pole, or by the Chinese wheelbarrow, and carried still further to the interior. In the same manner all goods for foreign export are brought to the sea-coast.

The Chinese government has granted, since its first American concession, very many concessions and rights throughout the empire to different favored nations. While keeping strictly to themselves, they allow territory outside of cities upon which the foreigners build their factories, houses, etc. The whole city of Hong Kong is an English concession, and is the great shipping point of English goods. Outside of Pekin, and close to the great wall of China are the concessions on which are built foreign houses of the legations. The water ways and roads, of which we have spoken, are infested with Chinese pirates and banditti, who swoop down upon inoffensive merchants and kill and plunder them and then hide until the affair is blown over. This system, while condemned by the government itself, is winked at by local officials who generally are supposed to reap a portion of the spoils. It is not a dangerous undertaking, therefore, for any set or class of these robbers to band themselves together for any definite purpose, and as communication is very slow in the empire, the doings of any local company or organization, especially where in collusion with the local authorities, would be a long time in reaching the capital. In previous years there have existed in China many organizations, known as the Triads and the Teente Brotherhoods, The Heaven and Earth Society, The Great Dragon Society, The Sect of the Water Lily, The Flood Family, The Company of the Queen of Heaven, The Society of Heaven, Earth and Man, The Society of Tea, and numerous other organizations all directed against either local or general government, or more often against the incursions of foreigners and the concessions granted them by the Chinese government. In some cases these societies have grown to tremendous proportions and have nearly succeeded in their attempts to usurp the general government. The most successful among these was the Triad Society, which was formed to destroy the Tatar influence and very nearly overthrew the entire empire.

The nearest approach that we have to such organizations in our own country would be



LI HUNG CHANG.



THE BRITISH LEGATION AT PEKIN.

such bodies as the Free Masons or Odd Fellows; and the Boxers are typical of the most successful of the Chinese secret organizations. They are divided into lodges and have common signs and passwords known only to themselves; have certain methods of locating each other, and recognize peculiar methods of putting dishes and food upon the tables; of wearing garments and saluting passers by. They hold their meetings generally in the dead of night, and in secluded and hidden places; and one of their customs at each meeting is to draw blood from their bodies, mix it with water and drink to each other and pledge vengeance against their enemies. The flag which has been adopted by this body bears the Chinese words meaning "Up with the Ch'ing Dynasty and down with the Foreigner."

They are known in their own country as The Big Sword Society and were organized in large numbers in the Shantung Province, but have recently spread rapidly; and from the present reports in newspapers it would be inferred that the organization is now very general throughout the Flowery Kingdom.

The Chinese government could undoubtedly stamp out such a movement, as it has done in former times; but the great game of politics enters into the present movement to a greater degree than has ever appeared in any movement against foreigners. The Empress desires to restore the ancient forms and prestige of the throne and to expel all foreigners; but she realizes the great danger that there is in attempting to stop the Russian movement on the North. She dares not fight with that country, and yet knows that with the protection of Russia she can defy Germany, England and France on the coast line. The Boxers are especially bitter against the foreign missionaries of both the Catholic and Protestant churches, and they are encouraged by the Buddhists and their priests. The foreigner, viewed from the Chinese standpoint, is nothing but barbarian and incapable of entering into his ideas of civilization. Every encouragement is given throughout the entire empire to increase the hatred of all foreigners, and this has been going on for years until the Chinese population is a seething mass of hatred and desire for vengeance.

The Boxers have numerous superstitions and one in connection with the drinking of each other's blood is that they become immortal, which they prove by hacking themselves with swords to show that they have no pain. It is generally supposed in European countries that the Chinese are poor soldiers, and such is the fact, as they would generally rather run than fight; but this is partly accounted for from the fact that they have no patriotism or desire to die for their own country. They are far, however, from being cowards; and while the ordinary soldier has no ambition or desire to defend his country, the Boxer is a fanatic who believes himself appointed to restore ancient China and to exterminate the western barbarism. Aroused in this way, the Chinese are capable of wonderful endurance and fortitude, and seem to have absolutely no fear of death or personal injury. While we might not fear the Chinese soldier, the Boxer, believing in his own immortality and that his is a heaven-sent mission, becomes a foe to fear.

The great dependence of the foreigners is on Li Hung Chang, who it will be remembered, visited this country a few years ago. He is a man of tremendous strength, bodily and mentally. Although nearly eighty years old, he stands over six feet tall, and is mentally and physically as vigorous as ever. He has been the leader of the progressive party in China and in recent years has not stood well with the Empress Dowager, whose plans he often opposed. It is hoped through his instrumentalities that peace will be brought about. He has made a wonderful record in his own country and especially in its relations with foreign powers, and through his efforts peace may be restored to the empire. Nearly the last official act that he performed while he was in power before being deposed a few years ago, was the abolishing of the greatest organization in China and the forerunner of the present Boxers.

The barbaric slaughter of the German minister to China and the detention of all foreigners in Pekin surrounded by a fanatical horde of Boxers, whose forces were alternated by the imperial soldiery caused the leading of relief columns composed of soldiers and sailors from all the European countries to go to their relief. The story of the fighting and failures has already ap-

peared in the newspapers, and is daily changing. At the time this article was written, the last news that had been heard was that the forces were besieged in the English legation at Pekin, a picture of which is shown in our illustration. At the same time the magnificent battleship Oregon, which had been

sent to the relief of Americans, has just been successfully floated from a rock upon which she struck, and saved from what was apparently a total loss. It was in front of the Chinese foreign office that the fanatics bore down the German ambassador and his servants and literally hacked them to pieces.

Many will ask why the name Boxers is given to this society. The exact reason cannot be told, but is probably associated with the idea that one of the names of the society is Manhood, Friendship and Fists. This is one of their most popular names, and undoubtedly from the last word was derived the general appellation by which they are known.

Our illustrations are of the principal scenes in the present uprising. The foreign office of the Chinese, shown in the initial, is reported destroyed. In front of this the German Ambassador, Baron C. August von Ketteler, was brutally hacked to pieces with his suite. In the British legation, shown in the other picture, the remaining foreigners were besieged

and kept up their desperate fight against the hordes of fanatical Chinese murderers for a number of days.

Students of political and foreign questions have long realized that the situation in China was fraught with the greatest dangers.

The withholding of the spoils of war from Japan by the Russian government, and the encroachments of European governments, the mapping out of spheres to be absorbed in case of the dismemberment of China, have led to constant jealousies and war preparations, so that the thoughtful student has long looked for troubles in the far East which might eventually bring about the general European

war which has been so long threatened and dreaded. The present fanatical uprising will be put down after a tremendous loss of life and great slaughter of the celestials; but no one can foresee the consequences of such a war. The importance of America's possessions in the far East is so well known and so well understood that she cannot be a mere spectator, but must take her part of the responsibilities as one of the first powers of the earth; but her position is so different from that of the European countries that all that will be needed is conservative action and a desire to be just and honest in her dealings with the Orientals to make hers a commanding position, no matter what the events may bring forth.

While it would be impossible to give the latest details of the revolt, which have already appeared in the daily papers and have been read by every one, still it perhaps would do no harm to point out some of the features of the campaign so that in reading hereafter a better conception may be had of what it all means. China is divided into two parts, North and South China, and it is the northern part which gave rise to the Boxer rebellion, from which it has spread and at the present time is probably very far into the whole empire.

It must always be remembered in reading that the sources of information, except on the few coast cities, are in the hands of the Chinese. They are notably a crafty race, and consider it no dishonor to spread false reports where they think it is to their advantage. This characteristic, which is found in almost every Chinaman, becomes a national sin; and in diplomacy it is almost impossible to feel that any nation is being treated with truth or directness.

The empire is extremely wealthy, and is populated by a horde of Mongolians variously estimated from 400,000,000 to 500,000,000 souls. The people are patient and industrious to the highest degree. It must not be thought that the Chinese as a whole are ignorant or barbarians; on the contrary they have the very highest kind of cultivation, and education extends among them may be to a greater degree than in the Caucasians, although of a different age and different period. It can only be said that their civilization resembles very much the civilization of the world 3000 or 5000 years ago, and the now obsolete Egyptian civilization, which in its time represented the highest civilization of the world, is very similar to the highest forms of Chinese civilization at the present day. They are largely followers of the doctrines of Confucius, although Buddhism extends throughout the empire, and it is owing to the fanatical appeal of the Buddhist priests that many of the atrocities of the present rebellion are due.

At this writing it is impossible to definitely state the progress which has been made by rebellion. The reports are contradictory, being published and denied day after day; but it seems comparatively certain that all the Europeans who were in Pekin on July 1st were massacred, and it would seem that those who were captured by the Chinese were submitted to the most horrible barbarities and torture. In fact the details, comprising as they do the shooting of women and children to prevent their capture by the Chinese, the tortures of the wounded and similar barbarisms, make the details of this revolt too sickening to be considered.

The tragedy of Pekin has spread a feeling of retaliation throughout the civilized world, and armies from all parts of the Christian domain are being prepared and hurried to the scene of the catastrophe. The present intention is to send 22,000 Americans, and already the comparatively small number there have done remarkable work in connection with the allied armies. One of the most serious developments in the situation develops that the Boxers are coming South with many regiments released by the fall of the Pekin legations to arouse the southern provinces; and that an imperial edict was sent forth in the early part of July commanding all the viceroys and governors to immediately commence war against the foreigners, and declaring that officers of all ranks who refuse to obey would be decapitated. The gravity of such a situation cannot be fully comprehended.

Another thing to be considered in reading about this war is that the Chinese have been preparing for war against the Caucasians for the last three years, and the amount of ammunition and modern equipment which has been poured into the empire during that time is almost incredible. German officers have also been putting the Chinese army on war basis ever since the Japanese war, and with countless number of young Chinamen to draw upon, the very numbers make them formidable. Many people will underestimate the strength of China, relying on the fact that the Japanese whipped them so easily in the late war; but it should be remembered that in that case Japan showed a naval superiority very early, and that the entire fighting was confined to a small peninsula from which the Japanese drove the Chinese with great loss.

As has been pointed out before, China has little or no railroad communication, and is an immense country, the interior of which is hardly known by Europeans. The European settlements are largely on the coast, and the capturing and holding of any number of these coast cities would not mean the subjugation of the Chinese empire. It would be very much as if there were no railroad communication in the United States, and an invading army should take Portland, Boston and New York. It is easy to imagine how impossible it would be to subjugate the United States in such a case, especially if the population of this country were three or four times as large as it is now. The proposition confronting Christendom is the most serious that has appeared for centuries. No better saying upon the situation at the present time can be given than in the words of Robert Pacey Moon, M. P.:

"The British government, it may be taken for granted, will not declare war on China simply because that is confirmed which has long been expected. Since Her Majesty's Ministers have not held the dynasty responsible for the foreign colony's peril, they cannot logically hold the dynasty responsible for the massacre. The question of guilt or innocence must be determined before retribution commences. It is certain that Chinamen fought for our people in these last awful days in Pekin, we must not include them in our scheme of vengeance. Therefore, confirmation of the rumors of massacre has not changed the government's purpose, except to intensify it."

"Two alternatives confront the allies. They are forced to crush the reactionaries or withdraw from China. They are forced to visit terrible retaliation on the murderers or to get out of the Empire and leave it to the superstition and savagery of the dark ages."

"The battle that is before us is really that of Christianity against heathenism. It will not be a battle of reason and argument but one of lead and steel. We shall see whether or not the Powers will waver. We shall see whether Kaiser Wilhelm, the Don Quixote of modern monarchs, will back his eloquence with his sword. We shall have a chance to judge whether the triple motive of vengeance, commercialism and zeal for Christ is enough to compel civilization to accept the bloody challenge of barbarism."

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razor, retail, 25cts.; one **Gimlet**, guaranteed to hold the hardest wood, retail, 25cts.; one **Combination**, some part if not all of which will certainly be found valuable nearly every hour in the day, and certainly every day in the year to nearly every man, woman and child. The **Pruning Shears** are invaluable for cutting strawberries and other fruits as they hold the berry, bunch of grapes, etc., after cutting, as illustrated in above cut. 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